



A
NARRATIVE

Of the very Extraordinary
Adventures and Sufferings

O F
M^r. WILLIAM WILLS,

Late Surgeon on Board the
Durrington Indiaman.



[Price One Shilling.]

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Adventures and Sufferings

OF

LEWIS AND CLARK



Have Bought the

Original Manuscript

[Price One Shilling]

A NARRATIVE

Of the very Extrarodinary
Adventures and Sufferings
OF
Mr. *WILLIAM WILLS*,

Late Surgeon on Board the
Durrington Indiaman,
Captain RICHARD CRABB,

In her late Voyage to the
EAST-INDIES,
Under the Convoy of
Admiral BOSCAWEN.

BEING,

A continued SERIES of Cruelty and Oppression, thro' the Jealousy and Ill-nature of ———, 'till his Arrival at *Bombay*; — where he was tried by a Court-Martial of *East-India* Captains

TOGETHER WITH

An Account of his Banishment to *Goa*, and his Voyage to *Brazil*, under Captain *Kinsey*, Commodore of a *Portuguese* Squadron.

Interspersed with several curious original *Love Letters*, *Certificates*, *Papers*, *Documents* and *Vouchers*; and corroborated by the Testimony of a great Number of Witnesses now residing in Town. To which is added, An Account of his TRIAL at *Guild-Hall* in *July* last: Recommended to all generous and humane Souls, for the Benefit of the unhappy Sufferer, now a Prisoner at Capt. *Crabb's* Suit in the *King's-Bench*, *Southwark*, for Costs of his late Trial.

L O N D O N:

Printed for W. WEBB, near *St. Paul's*, 1750-1.

NARRATIVE

Adventures and Discoveries

Mr. WILLIAM WELLS

Discoveries in India

By RICHARD O. S. A. B.

EAST-INDIES

Admiral



[v]
Point of Death, his Generosity
to me at Goa, where I had neither
Circumstances nor Friends, and
this I need only be mentioned
to make known their Value and
Weight.

T O

WILLIAM KINSEY, *Esq;*

S I R,

THE Letters from *Lisbon* I
had the Honour to put into
your Hands, have acquainted
you with the uncommon Obligations
I am under to your worthy Father
Commodore *Kinsey*. His Humanity
to me at *Goa* when I lay at the
Point

Point of Death, his Generosity in the *Brasils*, where I had neither Acquaintances nor Friends, and his constant Assistance and Support to this Place, need only be mentioned, to make known their Value and their Weight.

The Accounts of my unjust Sufferings transmitted to *Goa*, and the Letters I had from *Bombay* to several eminent *Portuguese*, first introduced me to his Acquaintance, and afterwards by his Means to the Notice of the *Viceroy* himself.

But to be innocently unfortunate, was sufficient to recommend any Person to Commodore *Kinsey's* Favour. As his Soul was uncommonly brave, so it had an uncommon Way of exerting itself, and took a Plea-

Pleasure in befriending a Person, who seemed abandoned and condemned by the whole World besides. —

At least, 'tis the best Reason I can assign for his extraordinary Friendship; to which, I speak without Affectation, my Merit is absolutely very inadequate.

'Tis with the most sensible Pleasure I congratulate you upon his late Success against the *Barbary Corsairs*, by which Service to *Christendom* in general, and to the Crown of *Portugal* in particular, his Reputation and Honours are increased.

Had he been in Town I should have offered this to him: You are his *Second-self*, accept of it in his Stead.

Stead. And that you may both
long enjoy Health and Happiness, is
the grateful Wish of

King's-Bench-
Prison, Jan.
31, 1750-1.

S I R,

Your most obliged and

Most dutiful humble Servant,



THE

(ii)

T H E

P R E F A C E

T O T H E

R E A D E R.

I Sit down to this Preface less in Conformity to the received Custom of the Times than really to give the Reader some previous Intimations, which could not so properly have been introduced any where else; and likewise to bring his Mind into such a Temper and Disposition, as I could wish him to have upon entering on the subsequent Work.

To affect that, I have judg'd no Means more proper than to convince him of the Verity of its Contents,
a which

which will soon appear, when 'tis known that all or most of the material Facts here recited, were proved in open Court at *Guild-hall*, in the Month of *July*, 1750, before a very great Concourse of People, who thronged there to hear the Trial.

In general, the following Narrative is taken from the Briefs of the Lawyers, who were employed in the Cause; where they are defective; or rather where they are silent, on such Points as had no necessary Relation to the Trial at Law, I have carefully supplied, and for the Sake of Connection, have regularly digested, partly from several original Letters and Papers that never appeared in Court, and partly from private Journals and Memorandums, and from my own Knowledge and Memory of the Matters of Fact that were transacted before my Eye.

These Things I thought necessary to promise, in order to distinguish my Book from the numberless Romances.
under

under which the Press daily groans: For one would be inclined to believe, that Fable was the most favourite Repast of this Age; because that a Story well told and deck'd out in gay and flattering Colours, very often attracts the Attention of Numbers, who would probably have but a faint Relish of plain Matter of Fact: One Reason for which may possibly be, that Fiction affords the most agreeable Entertainment to light Fancies and superficial Minds; and as these, I presume, are by far the greatest Number, what they want in Merit they make up in Multitude, which is a Proof that some choose rather to lose themselves in a Wilderness of Romance, than to follow with Calmness and Deliberation the plain Road of true History. Hence it happens, that People of Judgment and Experience, are not over hasty in Running to the Booksellers for every new Thing that comes out: Nor is their Caution to be blamed, tho' it often

proves a great Baulk, for some Time at least, to Pieces that deserve a more open and generous Reception.

But I hope mine will have better Fortune, both on Account that the Subject of it is pretty universally known thro' the whole Town, and by Reason of the new Acquisition I have made of Friends and Well-wishers who, thro' a generous Sympathy, have taken my Part since the final Issue of my late Trial; a Trial which ought to have indemnified me sufficiently for all my past Sufferings; but which by a particular Fatality that has attended me for several Years past, has from an easy and comfortable Livelihood, put me intirely at the Mercy of the World.

Necessity is therefore one Plea for my turning Author, because I hope that when People are fully satisfied of my unmerited Hardships, they will the more readily purchase my Book with a View of Assisting me in my Distress. Yet I would not depend
solely

solely neither on the Compassion of the World for Success: The Truth of this History will recommend it to some; the Novelty and Variety of my Adventures to many; for they are of so extraordinary and uncommon a Kind, as must have subjected them to the Suspicion of Imposture, had they not been manifestly testified and vouch'd in open Day by Scores of Eye-witnesses.

But tho' Necessity, as I said before, may be one strong Reason with me to write; it may perhaps prove too weak a Motive with many People to read; therefore I purpose something still stronger and more interesting, *viz.* The Information and Amusement of the Publick, which in the general Run, I flatter myself, I have had the good Fortune to accomplish, and of which I am very willing, before I proceed any further, to give you a few Specimens; as for Instance, first on the Head of Information.

The

The Honourable *East-India* Company will here be made acquainted (unless it is no News) with the illegal and unjustifiable Actions of some, who are intrusted in their Service, with their unpopular Management, their tyrannical Behaviour, and arbitrary Proceedings, which in Time must prove of infinite Detriment to the Interest and Character of a trading Company, as in Course, it must discourage and damp the Spirits of such Persons as otherways might be inclinable to enter into its Service ; consequently must demonstrate the Expediency and Advantage of making Choice only of Persons as are capable of executing Justice without Oppression, and exercising Authority without Tyranny, and who know how to reconcile the Prosperity of every Individual under their Command, to their own private Interest and the Company's Advantage.

Next,

Next it may be very serviceable to young Gentlemen who intend to try their Fortune in that Part of the World, that they may first maturely weigh, if their Temper and Disposition has suppleness enough to bend to every unreasonable Gust of Spleen and ill Humour ; to consider if they could digest four Looks, harsh Words, and insulting Behaviour, without so much as being conscious of a Fault. If from quitting their native Country, where the Justice of the Law protects every Man from Injury, they could patiently submit to Outrages and Affronts, and suffer themselves, for some paltry Advantage, to be the Creatures, the Slaves and Fools of an overbearing and tyrannical Captain, and by that Prostitution, blast the Fruits of an honest Education. — Then let them go to the *East-Indies*.

Next

Next on the Head of Amusement. For Instance, the Military Gentlemen will find something very picquant and high seasoned ; they may here learn the Form and Method of Courts Martial in the *East-India* Company's Service ; they may see how genteelly Authority fits on these new-fangled Officers ; how cavalierly they can bedeck their solitary Colours with the Honours only due to the Royal Flag, (as on the first of *May*, country Girls do their May-pole) and metamorphose their Books of double Entry into his Majesty's Articles of War.

In general, the Perusal of my unjust and barbarous Treatment, at the same Time that it moves Indignation against its Author, must touch every humane and generous Breast with Compassion for my Case. How happy must the Reader esteem himself under the Protection and Security of a mild and equitable Administration. And how ought *Britons* to value the
most

most excellent Constitution of their native Country. The Time has been when I never expected to have seen it more. My Enemy, to be sure, never intended I should. But now that it hath pleased God to restore me to it, I think now that I am in a Land of Liberty, I have a Right to the only Retaliation in my Power, and may, without Fear or Dread, make a true and faithful Narration of the Series of Persecution and Trouble he forced me to undergo ; that though he has had the good Fortune to be acquitted in Law, he may in Equity stand arraigned in the Breast of every honest Man, who truly sensible of the invaluable Blessings of Liberty and Property we enjoy, must heartily detest that Person, who perverted the Power, which was only given to protect, to the Oppression and Ruin of a Fellow Subject in a most distant Part of the Globe.

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when I was expected to have been in
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yet untried I should. I have now lost
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siders of the inviolable Rights of
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heartily desire that Nation, who per-
mitted the Power, which was only
given to protect, to the Oppression
and Ruin of another People in a most
disgraceful Part of the Empire.

NARRATIVE

OF THE

Voyages and Adventures

OF

Mr. *WILLIAM WILLS*.

I Am a native of *Sherbourne*, a pretty considerable Market-Town in *Dorsetshire*, within twelve Miles of the County-Town of *Dorchester*. My Father, *William Wills*, (who is still alive) keeps the *Sun Inn*, at the first mentioned Place; an Inn-keeper, who has seldom ever failed to acquire the Good-will and Favour of his Customers by his honest civil Usage and obliging Behaviour, and who, in his Way, is generally respected, not only by his Townsmen, but by the Gentlemen and Inhabitants of the County adjacent.

As I am the Eldest of his four Children, my Father had a particular Regard to my Education, which he committed to the Care of Dr. *Wilding*, Head Master of the Free-school at *Sherbourne*, founded by King *Edward the Sixth*; where, after I had passed through the usual Classes in *Latin* and *Greek*, he bound me Apprentice to Mr. *James Down*, Surgeon, at *Marnhill*, in the aforesaid County.

My Master happening to die in the third Year of my Apprenticeship, I was removed to the City of *Bristol*, to serve the remaining Part of my Time; under Mr. *Thomas Sheperd*, Surgeon, there; when that was out, I set up for myself, and very soon after married Miss *Keturab King*, Daughter of Mr. *Richard King*, a noted Flax Dresser, and likewise Organist to the Parish Church of *St. Nichols*, in the City above-mentioned.

Tho' I had pretty good Business for a Beginner, during the two following Years that I staid at that Place, yet as it was then War-time, I promised myself a much speedier Fortune by going Abroad: Besides, having a natural Inclination to the Sea, and living in a great Sea-port Town, such as *Bristol*, where I frequently used to hear of Prizes made on the Enemy, and otherwise being but very young (only twenty six Years of Age) and having the Prospect of a much larger Family than perhaps my future Business might conveniently support, I fix'd my Resolution, and with the Consent of my Relations, taking Leave of my Wife and Family, I set out in *July 1743*, for *London*, where after the usual Examination, and upon Application to the Commissioners of his Majesty's Navy, I was found qualified for the Place of a Surgeon's First Mate, in a Third Rate Man of War.

Accordingly, very soon after, *viz.* on the third Day of *August* following, I obtained a Warrant in that Capacity for the *Sutherland* Man of War, commanded by *George Pocock* Esq;

After

After a coasting Cruize of about six Months, finding myself pretty well seasoned to the Sea, and tolerably well acquainted with the Business and Duty of a Sea-Surgeon, and besides, having gained the good Graces and Favour of my Captain, I had not only Leave to quit the Ship, but was also furnished by him with Letters of Recommendation to the above Commissioners, who, upon my second Examination at Surgeon's Hall, found me qualified to serve in his Majesty's Navy as a Surgeon.

While I was in Waiting for a Warrant in that Station, I accidentally became acquainted with Captain *Edmund Smith*, at the House of an Apothecary, whom I assisted as well for the Sake of further Practice as to save Expence, and hearing that he wanted a Person of my Profession, that I might not lose Time, I very readily made him an Offer of my Service, which at the Instance of my Friend, and Production of my Qualifications was immediately accepted of.

Having agreed on Terms, and made a suitable Provision for so long a Voyage, I entred on Board the *Orford*, which he commanded, then in the Service of the *East-India* Company, and bound for the *East-Indies*.

We set sail in July 1744, and taking *St. Helena* in our Way, proceeded directly for *Bencoolen*, where having done our Business, we made for *Batavia*, in the Island of *Java*, and thence to *Banjar*, in the Island of *Borneo*, to execute the Remaining Part of our Commission ; that done, we prepared to return Home, and without any very remarkable Accidents, but what proceeded from the Damage our Ship sustained by being several Times run ashore, and for which the Cap-
tain

tain was severely reprimanded by the Company upon his Return, and who has since resigned; I say, barring of these Accidents, we arrived very happily in *England* in the Month of *February* 1747, having been absent from our native Country about two Years and a Half.

So much for my first Voyage to the *East-Indies*.

Having disposed of what few Trifles I had to the best Advantage I could, I was preparing to set out for my Wife and Family, when Mr. *Thomas Sandys*, late Supercargo of the *Orford*, representing to me the Inconvenience and Disadvantage of being too far out of the Way on many Occasions, and what favourable Opportunities I might probably lose during my Absence; whereas, said he, if you continue some Time longer in Town, you may be employed directly, and proceed on another Voyage without Loss of Time; adding withal, that an Acquaintance of his wanted a Surgeon, and as he believed was not then provided; that therefore if I was disposed to lay all Thoughts of my intended Journey aside, he would inquire into the Affair and give me Notice accordingly.

I agreed to this Proposal with Gratitude and with Thanks; the more so, as I told my Friend Mr. *Sandys*, that the Fruits of my late Voyage had not turned out extremely to my Account, neither did it indeed; partly because I had been inexperienced and intirely a Novice in the Nature of the Trade, and partly because I had been unprovided with a sufficient Stock. The first of which was now in some Measure remedied by my past Experience, and the other, at least, bettered by my late small Acquisition. I there-
fore

fore never hesitated a Moment to assure him of the grateful Sense I had of his Kindness, and of my Readiness to comply with his Advice: Only I desired, on several Accounts, that he would be as expeditious in it as possibly he could, which he promised he would; and then I gave him Directions how to write to me, if there should be Occasion, or where any Message might be left for me on that Head; upon which we parted: He, I suppose, on that Business, and I to acquaint my Family of the Reasons I had to suspend my intended Journey, at least till such Time as I knew whither the good Intentions of my Friend should succeed or not.

He did not keep me long in Suspence, for he left Word that he would be very glad to see me (as to Morrow) about Two o'Clock in the Afternoon at the *Jerusalem* Coffee-House near the *Royal-Exchange*, where, at the Time appointed, I found him, Captain *Smith* and Mr. *Tiddiman* (first Mate of the *Orford*) in Company with a Stranger, to whom I was immediately introduced as to the Person who wanted to treat. As it is the Practice in the *East-India* Company's Service for every Officer to get his Recommendations renewed, when he enters under a new Command, though his first Credentials may be good enough; so it was the Intent of this Meeting to adjust this Ceremony, which was performed by my three Friends present, so much to my Honour, and the Stranger's Satisfaction, on the Head of Ability, Diligence and a sociable Disposition, &c. that he cried out, well, Doctor, I see you are sufficiently recommended — Do come To-morrow and take Pot-luck with me

me at my House—We will then settle the rest—And then he gave me his Directions as follows—Captain *Richard Crabb*, at his House in *New London-street*, near *Fenchurch-street*; and then after mutual Compliments we separated.

After some Reflections on my new Station, and likewise on the Character of my new Commander; I could not satisfy myself but that I had known him some where else, though the Tracts were so very obscure, I could not very readily decipher them: However by Force of Thinking, I at last recollected one *Dick Crabb*, who was my Cotemporary at *Sherbourne School*, but in a higher Class, because he was considerably Older than me.

Uncertain as this Conjecture then was, it did not fail to give me a very sensible Pleasure, as the Notion of being School-fellows seemed to pave the Way for a more intimate Acquaintance and confirmed Friendship. Though I never was perfectly satisfied that my Idea was right, till a considerable Time afterwards. *

I did not neglect to wait on Captain *Crabb*, as he desired, who received me in a very affable and friendly Manner; and when we agreed on the Terms, which were soon settled, because the Company makes a certain fixed Allowance in all these Cases, he made me stay Dinner. When the Cloth was taken away, and we had made Shift to empty a few Bottles, he told me that he esteemed himself very happy to have met with a Person so well qualified, and who was seasoned to the Country; that a careful and able Surgeon was the most useful Person Aboard

* Vide p. 11.

a Ship, especially in long Voyages and hot Latitudes. That, besides the customary Privilege of dining in the Great Cabin, he would take a Pleasure in distinguishing me by more particular Marks of Favour, and would be ready, at all Times, to assist me, in Regard to Fortune, with his Advice, Credit, and Interest. And, towards the Conclusion, Doctor, says he, I do not know how soon I may be ordered to sail, therefore have yourself in Readiness, and let me know wherein I can serve you here:—And, in the mean Time, do take a Step aboard, and see how you like your new Quarters, of which come again and acquaint me To-morrow.

I returned the next Day, and the Captain took me along with him to the *East-India-House*, where he caused me to be entered Surgeon aboard the *Durrington Indiaman* (which he commanded) and I signed my Name in the proper Books accordingly.

The Remainder of the Time (which was not long) till my Embarkation was mostly taken up in making Preparations, and in equipping myself with such things as I judged would be most useful in the ensuing Voyage; besides, a small Venture of such Commodities as I believed would make the readiest and most profitable Return.

We departed then from *Gravesend*, on the 20th of *April* 1747, to prosecute our Voyage to the *East-Indies*, and came off *Portsmouth* about the 29th of the same Month. But as it was then confidently reported, that Monsieur *de la Bourdonnaie* had seized on *Madrafs*, and that probably there would be a very formidable *French Fleet* in those Seas, it was judged expe-

dient to suspend our Proceedings, till the Consequences of that Capture were fully known, and till we should have the Benefit of a Convoy of some of his Majesty's Ships of War.

In this Expectation we anchored in *Portsmouth* Road, and, more Ships joining us daily, we at last made a very considerable *East-India* Fleet. Besides the *Durrington*, there was the *Stretham*, Capt. *Pinnel*; the *Royal Duke*, Capt. *Comyns*; the *Delawar*, Capt. *Stevens*; the *Edgebaston*, Capt. *Hereford*; the *Lincoln*, Capt. *Nanfan*; the *Chesterfield*, Capt. *Carter*; the *Admiral Vernon*, Capt. *Cook*; the *Fort St. George*, Capt. *Bracey*; the *Edgecourt*, Capt. *Pierce*; the *Rhode Island*, Capt. *McNamur*; the *Elizabeth*, Capt. *Lawrence*; the *Royal George*, Capt. *Field*; the *Porto Bello* Sloop, Capt. *Robinson*; with several Vessels of inferior Note, that either I did not know, or whose Names I have forgot.

During this State of Inaction, I do not know how it came about, but I found our Ship's Company, particularly the Foremast-Men, in a Manner, quite eat up with the Venereal Disease and the Itch. This surprized me the more, in Regard that the last mentioned Distemper, as well as the Scurvy, principally affects People on a long Voyage, and after feeding a long while on Salt Provisions. However, the same Length of Time which contributed to their contracting of these ugly Maladies, through a Course of Idleness and intemperate Living, gave me sufficient Leisure to effect their Cure, in which I spared neither Application nor Pains; and the Captain himself was so well satisfied with my Success, that he left his Son entirely to my Care (a Child of between four and five Years of Age)

Age) who lingered under an intermitting, inflammatory Fever, which, by the Help of proper Medicines and careful Nursing, I absolutely got the better of, and brought him to such a hopeful Habit of Body, that both the Captain and Mrs. *Crabb*, who had come down to pass that Interval with her Husband, were astonished at so sudden and unexpected a Change, and appeared so well pleased with my Zeal and Attention to serve them in that Particular, that the Captain has, on several Occasions, writ to me in the strongest Terms of Friendship and Regard, and testifying the full Approbation he had of my Behaviour and Conduct.

For Brevity, I shall only insert two of his Letters, which have a more particular Respect to what I have said——The first is as follows:

S I R,

I received yours, and am very sorry to find so many of my People have got this sad Distemper; and, if you think it will be better for the Officers, that have got it, to come ashore, I have ordered Mr. *Harvey* * to send them here; but, if you can cure them aboard, I should like it much better. However, I leave that intirely to you, and desire you'll lose no Time; send me an Answer by the Bearer. I am,

S I R,

Your Friend,

and very humble Servant,

Portsmouth,
May 22, 1747.

R. CRABB.

* He was the Captain's first Mate, of whom more afterwards, and is now in Town.

And, amongst others, I had the following relating to his Son :

S I R,

‘ I Am very glad to hear that my People are
 ‘ almost all well of these bad Distempers,
 ‘ and, considering you had so many on your
 ‘ Hands at one Time, I think you have had very
 ‘ great Success. My Child is sick, and I
 ‘ desire you’ll come ashore this Morning and do
 ‘ your best for him; he has been ill a long Time,
 ‘ and has had several Physicians, but without
 ‘ any Success. I have one now, whose Name is
 ‘ Dr. *Cuthbert*, of this Place, with whom I don’t
 ‘ find him any better. At last I shall rely on your
 ‘ Knowledge, and shall expect you to dine with
 ‘ me at *Standard’s* House, where I lodge. I am,

S I R,

Your Friend,

and very Humble Servant,

R. CRABB.’

P. S. I shall have have the Physician to
 dine with me, and some other Gentlemen—*Mrs. Crabb* expects you’ll drink
 Tea with her at least.

The other Letters I have purposely omitted,
 hoping that these may serve as a sufficient Specimen
 of the Manner in which the Captain and
 I lived together at that Time,

At

At last the whole Fleet set sail about the 14th of *November*, under the Convoy of Admiral *Boscawen*, who was then going on a secret Expedition, after we had stayed at *Portsmouth* for near eight Months.

We arrived at *Madeira* on the 13th of *December* following, where the Captain, being desirous to oblige me, gave me Leave, of his own Accord, to buy two Pipes of *Madeira* Wine for my own Account, and permitted me to stow it in the Ship's Hold, Freight free, for *India*.

It was much about this Time, that, happening once to fall into a Conversation about the Frolicks of our younger Days; the Captain, amongst others, was diverting us with some Account of his juvenile Pranks, and told us, laughing, that he had been so unmercifully handled by an old Rogue of a School-master, that, ever since, the very Sight of a *Latin* Book was almost enough to throw him into a Sweat. I caught at this favourable Occasion to put the Question to him, and, upon a fair *Eclaircissement*, I found that he was the very identical *Dick Crabb*, I at first conjectured.

We made up to the Island of *St. Jago* about the 23d of *January* 1747 8, where the whole Fleet watered and victualled; that done, we proceeded towards the Line, where we had an Adventure that is too curious to be omitted.

'Tis an established Custom amongst Mariners to pay (in the Sea-stile) a Bottle and Pound, at the first Time of passing the Equinoctial Line, that is, one Bottle of Spirits and one Pound of Sugar; failing that to deposit, in lieu thereof, Half a Crown for the Benefit of the Ship's Company,

pany, otherwise to be thrown over the Ship's Side by a Rope and duck'd heartily three Times in the Sea. The Captain and Officers of the Ship were all upon Deck, to see what Diversion there would be on this Occasion: But the People (those I mean who never before had crossed Line) crowded so fast with their Bottles and Pounds, that we began to fear nothing would be done. At last, one *Ned Ellithorn*, not being provided with either, came, according to Custom, to make a Tender of his Half Crown in the Stead: But the ———, judging that, if he escaped, we should have no Sport, and besides, having private Reasons (for they had differed) to make him the Victim of the Day, caused his Offer to be rejected underhand; and the poor Fellow, with Tears in his Eyes, and in Spite of his Cries, was hung up to the * Yard Arm with a Rope about his Body, and souced thence into the Sea to the great Diversion of the ——— and the Company.

As we lived together without Reserve, my School-fellow's Character opened upon me more and more every Day, in Proportion as we were at a greater Distance from *England*; therefore I shall give only two more Specimens of his Humour, and then have done. One Day having some large Pyes at Dinner, the ———, being desirous to see a flogging Bout, proposed to one *Richard Phillips*, a Drummer (who had the Reputation of a great Stomach) to eat one of them up, under the Penalty of running the

* From the Yard Arm to the Edge of the Water is, at least, eighteen Yards in Height, and three of the Company's Soldiers underwent the same Discipline at that Time.

Gantlope, in case he failed. The Fellow readily agreed to the Match ; the Pye was then placed publickly on the Quarter-deck, the Fidler ordered to strike up, and the Drummer fell so keenly on, that the Pye presently disappeared: Upon this, the —— changed Colour, and, retiring instantly to his Cabbin, was, taken so sick at the Disappointment, that he sent for me to administer a Potion of Wormwood Draught *. However, meditating a Revenge, he caused a larger one to be baked, and, sending for the Hero, Well, *Phillips*, says he, you have flung me once ; come to the other Bout, I'll venture one Pye more, by G——. But here the Drummer unluckily fell short, and, in Return, was so prettily exercised, to cause a Digestion, round and round the whole Ship, every Man, with a Rope in his Hand, flogging him, as he passed, that the poor Wretch, galled to the very Bones, fainted under the Violence of their Strokes ; then the——, out of his particular Humanity, ordered him a Bumper of Brandy in his Presence, and sent him quietly away to have his sore Back dressed in his Hammock.

Some Time afterwards, I think, says he, to some of the Gentlemen in the Cabbin, My Fellows are turned too regular of late——I love to see the Dogs mischievous — D—n it, I have a vast Longing to see a flogging Bout——We have had none now a considerable while——Is there no Way to have a little Sport ? —— But hold, says he, after pausing a While, I have hit of an Expedient that positively will do ; ' I'll have our fattest Pig killed, cause her to be curiously

* That was the —— common Cordial, when under any Indisposition.

roasted,

roasted, and then make a Proclamation, That any ten Men may dine on her *gratis*, provided they engage and bind themselves to eat her all up, upon Condition that, if they fail, they shall be obliged to run the Hoop * during my Pleasure: The Fellows, continued he, have had no fresh Victuals this long Time, and I am of Opinion that a Bit of Pig would tempt much nicer Stomachs than theirs. Now the Devil's in it if they can eat it all up, for I'll venture that it weighs One Hundred Pound Weight, at the least. Our ——— applauded himself so highly on this Project, that the Company took the Party to humour him in his Whim; whereupon he sent to invite several of his Brother Captains (particularly Captain *Pierce* of the *Edgecourt*) and several other Gentlemen of his Acquaintance, to assist at the ensuing Feast. Next Day the Pig was roasted whole, with an enormous Pudding stuffed in its Belly, and Mr. Cook exhausted all his Skill to render it tempting and delicious. But when it was ready to be taken off the Spit, and the ——— Pleasure was made publickly known, What a Number of Candidates for a Share of the Pig! *I, Sir, I Sir, I Sir*, was the general Cry: He might have disposed of a Dozen on the same Terms. The Ship's Musick, striking up, gave the Signal for the Onset, and the ——— Servants in *Holland* Shirts and Jackets stood ready to serve the Champions. To it they went then with great Fury; but, as their Bellies filled, their Zeal abated, till at last one of them who had

* That is, they were to run round in a Circle, each Person switching him who is immediately before, while he is flogged in his Turn by the next Person behind.

overcrammed himself with the Pudding (which was purposely made very fat and half raw) fairly disgorged. Then the ——— declared aloud, that, as it was not all eat up, they had incurred the Penalty, which, by his Order, was immediately inflicted with Cat-and-Nine-Tails, to the great Joy of the Company, but to my great Plague; for what with Plaisters for their fore Backs, what with Vomits and Physic to heal their Stomachs, I had my Hands full of them for a whole Fortnight.

With the Help of such Sea-faring Pasttimes as these, we made the Cape of *Good Hope*, about the 15th of *April* 1748; where the Captain, with whom I still lived in a perfect good Intelligence, conferred on me a fresh Obligation, by permitting me to buy a Hoghead of Cape Wine, on the same Terms that I had the *Madeira* abovementioned.

The Reader will please to observe, that I take particular Notice of these Obligations, as well to testify my own Sincerity in acknowledging them, as to set them in a just Opposition with the——after Conduct, that by such a Contrast he may be the better enabled to judge from what Cause his ill Treatment of me afterwards proceeded.

We had now left the Cape, and got about an hundred Leagues to the Westward of it, when we parted Company with the Admiral and his Fleet; he, as I said before, was bent on a secret Expedition, and we, being now pretty safe, proceeded without Convoy, during the rest of our Voyage; and, on the 2d of *July* 1748, arrived at the Island of *Madagascar*.

Though an able Pen might have diversified this Narration, with historical and political Remarks, and might even perhaps have diverted the Reader in a new and an agreeable Manner; yet, I have purposely avoided to enter into Descriptions of the Countries, of the Coasts, and of the Islands which we passed. I have likewise passed over in Silence Latitudes and Longitudes, the Trade-Winds, and Changes of Weather, with all the insipid Detail of immaterial Occurrences, which most Seamen value themselves so much upon; because, in the first Place, I do not affect to give any geographical Account: Such an Undertaking would require more Time, closer Observation, and perhaps a far greater Capacity than I am Master of. Besides, What Occasion is there for it? Are there not Books enough already written professedly on these Subjects, to which curious Persons may have Recourse for further Information on those Heads? In the next Place, such a Detail would swell my Book much beyond the Bounds I have prescribed. For as I do not want to spin out my Story, in Imitation of some late Authors, from one Volume to another, more than the Subject will bear; I judge it quite superfluous to box round the whole Compass, when I may get at my Journey's End, by a directer and a shorter Road.

Therefore I shall proceed, without any Digression, to give an Account of what happened at *Madagascar*, which I may call the fatal Island, because here the Sunshine of the — Favour was very suddenly and unexpectedly overcast; and, notwithstanding my utmost Endeavours to dispel the Gloom, did not end, but in
a fu-

a furious Storm against me, the sad Effects of which have reduced me under the disagreeable Circumstances I at present find myself involved.

The *Houghton East-Indiaman* (Homeward-bound from *Bengall*) having by Distress been obliged to put in here, Captain *Worth*, who commanded her, came aboard our Ship, and acquainted us with the piteous Condition of his Company, of which he had lost several, and the Remainder was in such an infirm and sickly State, that he had found it absolutely impracticable to carry the Ship Home under these unfavourable Circumstances; that, to add to his Misfortune, his Surgeon had been long ill, which had deprived his Men of the Relief they might have expected, had he been in Health, and at the Time he was speaking, lay at the Point of Death; that therefore he had come to demand our Assistance, for the Good of the Service in which we were equally engaged: Desiring in the first Place, that the ——— would permit me to visit and administer Medicines to his Sick; adding, that he would reward me for my Pains, and that the speedy Recovery of his Men was the only Chance he had of returning timely and happily to *Europe*. I being universally recommended as a careful Man (which appeared from my having cured a great many sick and wounded People aboard the *Derrington*, without losing one Man or Boy under my Care; our ——— very readily consented to so reasonable a Request, and I had Instructions to visit the *Houghton*, as often as necessary for the Recovery of her Men. The Day following her Surgeon died, so that the Care of both Ship's Companies, I

mean so far as concerned their Health, devolved intirely upon me : But as my own People needed my Assistance but very little at that Time, and the *Houghton* having the Number of Thirty-eight sick and wounded, I had Occasion to be oftener there, than aboard my own Ship, till I got her Company on their Legs again, and that she was in a Condition to continue her Voyage with Safety to *England*.

Now that I am on the Chapter of Legs, I had almost forgot to make Mention of a Female Passenger, who had a fore one : And, as I acted as Surgeon aboard the *Houghton*, I could do nothing less than offer my Service to the Lady. But because, on Account of Decency, it was necessary we should be alone, and as otherwise we were very well pleased with each other's Conversation ; it happened perhaps that my Visits were frequent, and sometimes pretty long, which gave Occasion to some over-busy inquisitive Heads to misconstrue my Diligence and the Lady's Gratitude to a quite different Design.

For a long While I bore their Railleries on that Subject with much Indifference, nor did they ever give her much Pain : But when the Rumour became general, and I was snarled at by every jealous, envious, ill-natur'd Cur in the Ship, I judg'd it high Time to acquaint her of it, in Hopes that the Respect, due to the Sex, might bridle their wicked, scandalous and calumnious Tongues. Accordingly it had its Effect ; for she soon afterwards took Occasion to say publickly, That their Jokes should not hinder her from entertaining the Doctor, as often as she thought fit : That she was highly obliged
to

to him, and at least had as good a Right to his Visits as any other Person aboard the Ship: That he attended them as Patients; and did he do more for her? Therefore, without being any way disobliged at their Mirth, she would only desire him, she said, to come still oftener, if that could contribute to it. However, though this Speech cooled their Spleen for some Time, I was now and then saluted with — Well, Doctor; and when pray will this Leg be well? What a devilish While you're about it? — Oh! as to that, says another: He is in no manner of Hurry: He knows what he is about: I warrant you, we shall have a young Doctor in nine Months.

The Officers of the *Houghton*, seeing Mrs. ——— take my Part so warmly, and, I suppose, looking upon it as an Invasion of their Property, that I should engross so much of the Conversation of the only (white) Woman aboard their Ship, set another Engine at work, to disturb our Repose. She had a Daughter, a sharp prying little Girl for her Years, whom they made believe, that I was courting her Mamma; and, as Girls are generally mighty fond of hearing Courtships, we were surprised one Day to see Miss bolt suddenly into the Cabbin where we were, just as I was *dressing her Leg*; which as it was quite improper for her to be a Witness of, her Mamma was provoked at her Assurance, and desired me to whip her for it: But, upon my declining the Office, she was preparing to do it herself, when Miss took full Speed to her Heels; and, I suppose, full of the Notions of Courtship, which had purposely been instilled into her before-hand, and per-
haps

haps surpris'd at the Novelty of the Posture it was necessary we should be in, called out before all the People on Deck : See ! see ! The Doctor is kissing my Mamma in the Cabbin, with her Coats over her Head. The Simplicity of the Girl, you may be sure, afforded no small Entertainment to all the Hearers : They were ready to burst with Laughing : And, as some People are very industrious in propagating Scandal, the News was immediately conveyed aboard the *Durrington* ; and, amongst others, to the Ears of ———, who, from that Instant (I knew not then upon what Account) conceived an implacable Hatred to me, and never ceased to harraßs and to persecute me, under a thousand frivolous Pretences afterwards.

I read a Declaration of War in his Looks, the very first Time I entered the Cabbin : He had just sat down to Dinner ; and, the Moment I appeared, he flung the Soup-spoon (with which he was helping the Company) with great Violence on the Floor, muttering several shocking Expressions, which I could understand, though they did not seem directly levelled at me. However, I dined ; though, I cannot well say, with an extreme good Appetite : For I was apprehensive of the ill Consequences of having a Difference with ———. On the other Hand, as I was not conscious of having done him any Prejudice, neither could I prevent the idle Tittle-tattle whispered about the Ship, I affected to take no manner of Notice ; but, as it was by his own Desire, that I first went aboard the *Houghton*, I continued my Visits there as formerly.

By

By this Time, the News of our Amour (as they were pleased to call it) was spread over all the Ships in the Road; so that, go where I would, I was roasted in all Companies; But the *Houghton's* People outdid every Thing to plague and persecute me. You must know, Miss had been taken to Task for her unseasonable Intrusion; so that the next Thing they went about, was to bore Holes in the Wainscot, which they pegged up 'till such Time as I should go down to the Cabbin; but, unluckily for them, I smelt the Joke, and they were disappointed.

At last, however, their Tricks and Innuendoes quite tired me out; and I began to consider, that, though they had no Reason nor Authority for what they did, it was best to desist, as well for the Sake of the Lady's Reputation, as my own Repose. Besides, now that her Leg was really perfectly cured, and the Ship's Company mostly recovered, I, in Fact, had much less Occasion to go there, and certainly would have desisted sooner, only that I would not suffer myself to be worried out of the Ship.

From this Time my Visits became less frequent, and, in their Turn, Mr. *Alexander May* and Mr. *Bean Bradley*, first and second Mates of the *Houghton*, came to see me, in Company with Mr. *Rosewel* and Mr. *Male*, who were Passengers. It happened, that, as we were walking the Quarter-Deck, Mr. *May* cast his Eyes on the Articles of War, which were pasted on the Bulk-head of the Cabbin, and enquired very seriously for what Purpose they were there: Some of the Officers answered, That ——— had caused them to be stuck up there for the Information of the Men; and that one *Anthony Lucas*,

Lucas, a Midshipman, read them publicly, by his Orders, once every Month. *May* appeared surprised at such a Novelty aboard an *East-Indiaman*; but more so, when he was told, that ——— had declared to the whole Ship's Company, That he had as much Power to hold Courts-Martial, and execute their Sentence, as any Admiral in *England*, especially if three Captains of *East-Indiamen* were present. *May* and his Company treated this Declaration with the Ridicule it deserved: But, the others defending it, there ensued a Dispute, whether a trading Company (such as the *East-India* is) could derive a Power, to any Number of their Captains whatever, to try any Fellow-subject at all: And whether it was not rather an impudent Usurpation of the Right of the Royal Navy, which deserved to be properly represented: And some Expressions being unwarily dropped, that gave Offence to ———'s Officers, they were like to come to high Words, when I interposed; and, to put an End to the Dispute, begged of Mr. *May* and his Company, to come off the Quarter-Deck, and go along with me.

Poor *May* little knew this Raillery would cost him so dear: For it nettled ——— to such a Degree, that, when the Ships came Home to *England*, what with his own Interest, and his ———'s, (who belongs to the *East-India-Office*) he was represented in such a Light to the Court of Directors, that the poor Gentleman was turned out of the Service, notwithstanding that he had always behaved like an able and diligent Officer, and was universally respected as a worthy honest Man.

When

When we were alone, I very frankly told them (for I did not chuse to do it before) that, in my Opinion, ——— had no manner of Right to bring even the Under Cook's Scullion to a Court-Martial, for any Misbehaviour whatever : Nor had the Articles of War any Relation to Persons in the *East-India* Company's Service ; for that they were hired, and not properly enlisted ; and, instead of serving the Crown, were the Servants of a Trading Company only. In Fact, the *Newcastle* Colliers might, with equal Reason, have assumed that Privilege ; nay, and with more Justice too, considering how necessary and how serviceable are their Coals, for the very Support of human Life ; and how very unnecessary and superfluous are the Toys and Trumpery generally brought from the *East-Indies*.

It appeared unreasonable to me, that the Power of Life and Death should be lodged in the Breasts of Persons, who possibly might neither have Probity nor Capacity enough to conduct it with Justice ; but downright shocking to see it vested in any one Man, who, either for the Gratification of his Passions, or for the Interest of his Fortune, might most often find it turn to his Account, to render it capital.

'Twas therefore an Innovation that I could by no Means digest, not only because I knew it was a Piece of Arrogance that highly deserved Censure, but, in such a Case, one is naturally apprehensive of the Use that may be made of it, in regard to one's Self ; though I never presaged that it would have been pushed to such an extraordinary Length in my Case, as afterwards happened.

D

But

But ———, to a Wantonness of Cruelty in his Temper, joined an extreme Degree of Vanity and Pride; and as he either was born a great Lover of Flogging, or else wanted to make Reprisals for what he had suffered, when he was a Boy at School, under Old *Whilding*; he endeavoured by all Means to have that Gratification in his own Power, whenever he would. For this Purpose he had contrived several new Methods; but, as he wanted to give them the Sanction of Authority, he used to be very assiduous in attending Courts-Martial, while under the Admiral's Convoy; by which he had acquired, God knows, but a very slender Knowledge, though a great deal of Ambition, to hold some of his own. 'Tis true, there were Soldiers and Marines belonging to the Admiral's Expedition on Board all the *East-India* Ships, excepting two, which were the *Durrington* and the *Stret-ham*; and as there often were Disputes between the Kings Soldiers on Board the *East-Indiamen*, and the *East-India* Company's Soldiers and Seamen, there were several Courts-Martial held, at which ———, by the Admiral's Favour, not *ex Officio*, but *ex Honore*, officiated, and immediately took it into his Head that he had a Power to hold a Court-Martial, whenever he pleased, because he happened to be furnished with a Letter of Marque; and this Notion of his was so much strengthened by the Concurrence of some of his Brother ———, as wise as himself, that he used frequently to call aloud to his Ship's Company, If any of you shall be guilty of any Thing contained in the Articles, by G——d I will immediately call a Court-Martial, and have you flogged.

But

But the Joke is, that these continual Menaces so far intimidated the Ship's Company, and kept them so much in Awe, that he was like to have been grievously disappointed at last, and, as you have seen, was forced to cajole them into a flogging Bout, with the Temptations of Pudding and roast Pig.

Possibly I may be mistaken, in what I am going to say, That the Meaning of a Court-Martial is a Court of War (for so the Term appears to me to import.) If so, it never can with Propriety be applied to a Trading Ship, for Trade depends on Peace : And the Intent of a Letter of Marque is to encourage Merchants Ships to assist the Crown in annoying the Enemy, through the Hopes of Gain ; that is to say, they may either attack or let it alone, just as they will, for there's no Obligation; only, in case they should meet an Occasion of striking a safe Blow, the Crown indemnifies them of the Consequences ; —for it would be Piracy else ; — and to the Bargain gives them the Booty for their Pains. Consequently is there a Competition in any Shape between these who occasionally attack a weak Prey, purely for the Sake of Plunder, and those who face the greatest Dangers, for the Service and Honour of their Country, at all Hazards, and at all Times ?

But here was a Fleet of *East-Indiamen*, without Controul, and subject to the Cognizance of none that could call them to an immediate Account. And some of their ———, to support their arbitrary Principles, were determined to countenance one another in the most unjustifiable Proceedings, of which I had, when in my own Person, a most notorious Instance, when——'s Fury against

me, which hitherto in a Manner had been dormant, broke out in an open Rupture on the following ridiculous Occasion.

As I said before, I called off Mr. *May* and his Company, for fear they should embroil themselves in a Quarrel; and, to drown all that was past, I invited them to drink plentifully of my Cape Wine. But, by the Time they were got merry, they, as it were, with one Consent, turned the Tables against me, and began to banter me most unmercifully on the Subject of Mrs. ———; which now for several Reasons I could not well bear, and therefore would have turned the Conversation another Way: But my Perplexity only heightened the wicked Pleasure they took in tormenting me with *The young Doctor, in nine Months, &c.* and other Expressions of that Sort, that I lost all Patience at last, and answered, furlily, That, if it should be so, what Business was it of theirs, or other Words to the same Effect, which at present I neither can recollect, nor do I believe they gave any Attention to, for I know they had no Intention to prejudice me. But this Part of our Conversation being overheard by one ———, a very impertinent, busy Fellow; he ran full Speed to the ——— with the News, wanting to curry Favour, I suppose; but basely twisted my Expressions in such a Manner, that he made it out a downright Defamation of Mrs. ——— Character, a Thing I had never once dreamed of in my Life. Upon which the ——— sent immediately for me, and, like a Man possessed with all the Furies, 'Tis you then, says he, that has given out scandalous Reports concerning Mrs. ———, for which, by G——d I'll turn you out of my Cabbin,

Cabbin, and from off the Quarter-Deck, before the Mast, nor will suffer you to set a Foot in the Steerage, nor so much as to ease yourself where the Officers do ; and was in such a violent Passion, that he would not hear one single Word I had to say. From that very Moment I was put to my Shifts, having never been allowed to dine with the ———, or set a Foot in the Cabbin, the Steerage, or on the Quarter-Deck : And what was still worse, the ———'s Steward acquainted me, that his Master had given him strict Orders, not to give me one Bit of Victuals or Drop of Water, at his Peril.

What Mischief may one Woman occasion ! 'Tis true, I knew he bore me a Grudge on her Account, of that I had several Times the most plain and sensible Proofs ; but that his Passion would have hurried him to such a Length of Outrage and Abuse, was more than I could have believed. For what other Connexion had I with ———, than as a Surgeon aboard his Ship ? My private Conduct, supposing it blameable, or my Character, supposing it bad, was any Body's Concern as much as his, so long as I performed the Duties of my Station with Fidelity and Diligence ; there only I was responsible to him ; but that even his Malice never dared to censure. Besides what Business had he with Mrs. ——— ? Was she his Wife ? His Sister ? Or was she any way related to him at all ? Or was it that he had a Mind to her himself, and therefore endeavoured to bring me under Disgrace with her, and Discredit with the whole World, on Purpose to make room for himself ?

That

That this was the Case is quite out of all Doubt. Besides, I had remarked of late, that our ——— was of a very amorous Constitution. He very frequently used to go ashore, and appeared so extremely fond of the black Wenches of the Country, that he could never be easy, till all his Ship's Company had experimentally justified his Taste. For this Purpose he prevailed on the Black King of *Barba* *, to send several Boats full of Women aboard our Ship. They, poor Girls, were much less saucy than the Jades of *London*, never would accept of any Money, for they are ignorant of its Use in that Country; but they were mighty fond of Beads, Buckles, Glasses, Toys, and all Manner of hard Ware, particularly of brass Buttons; and, as this last was chiefly the Coin in which the Sailors paid their Mistresses, when we came to a general Muster, before our Departure, there were so very few left aboard the Ship, that the Men were forced to tie up their Trowzers and Jackets with Rope-Yarn: Nor did the ——— himself escape, for several Buttons were missing † off his Breeches, which, 'tis supposed, were pilfered by one of the Black Prince's Concubines, with whom he used to walk in the Woods. I was the only Person who preserved all my Buttons intire, which being observed by old *Gillis*, the ——— Cook, he roared out with a great Laugh, *Huzza for the Doctor; he a white Girl, and we a Black.*

* The Name of a petty Prince on the Coast of *Madagascar*

† As *John Tyler*, his own Taylor, can testify.

But my Mate fared worst of any, for he lost Buttons, Cloth, Shirt and all, even to his Lancet Case.

When I found such indifferent Entertainment at Home, I immediately went aboard the *Houghton*, and, going down to the Cabbin, Mrs. ——— acquainted me with every Thing that had passed, with this Addition, that ——— was still endeavouring to prevail on her, as indeed he had been for some Time, to go Passenger with him from *Madagascar* to *Bombay*, and from thence to *England*; which, at last, she was for several Reasons, I know, almost determined to do. But she expressed her Uneasiness, that our Difference had gone such a Length, for that the ——— had threatened to use me extremely ill, which she said she would do her best to prevent. And then, by my Desire, she made a public Declaration, before Captain *Worth*, Mr. *May*, and several others, that she believed the Expressions laid to my Charge, touching her Character, were absolutely false; that she neither knew nor approved of the ———'s Proceedings against me on that Account: On the contrary, she believed me to be the best Friend she had in the World; as a Proof of which, she insisted, before them all, that I should have Admittance to her, as usual, whenever I came aboard.

Here the Reader may plainly discover the Tendency of all the ——— Proceedings. He wanted Mrs. ——— to go Passenger in his Ship, in which he had proposed to her several Advantages. But, first, he wanted to break off my Correspondence with her: To bring that about, it was necessary to have one Pretence or another for using me ill, as he had no real Cause: — And,
in-

instead of a better, served himself with this, which happened first to come to Hand : But as he knew that it was but shallow, at the best, and easily seen through ; he endeavoured to bring a Party to his Side, by inveighing against me continually aboard, and by encouraging his People to affront me at Home ; so that every Day produced new Insults. For Instance, as I was once returning from the *Houghton*, one of the Mates, seeing the People, as usual, man the Ship's Side, for me to come aboard, called out in my Hearing, D——n your B——d, come in, do'nt stand manning the Side there for the Doctor—he is not worthy of — Which, in other Words, was a direct Refusal to let me come aboard. But the People, whom I always used very well, stood my Friends, at that Juncture, and seemed to take no Notice of what he said. However, knowing that this came from —, and fearing, as most People love to court Power, but fly Persons in Distress, that I should soon have no-body left to do me the least friendly Office, I made several Offers for an Accommodation, but found none would be listened to, unless I wilfully accused myself of Scandal, Calumny, and Detraction. Upon which I made a Resolution to weather it out, let the Consequence be what it would : But then such numberless Difficulties daily occurred, that it was impossible to hold out much longer. At last, through Force of Hunger and ill Usage, I determined to make a formal Submission, and, without falsely accusing myself of every Thing laid to my Charge, only to confess my Fault in general Terms of Penitence and Humility ; which, upon Consideration,

ration, I judged would be most effectually transmitted by Dr. *Lushington*, a Clergyman, and Passenger aboard the *Stretbam* (Captain *Pin-
nel*) thinking that it would have the more Weight in passing through such reverend Hands.

The following is a Copy of the Letter, I wrote to him on that Occasion :

S I R,

‘ **A** S you are an utter Stranger to me (though
 ‘ perhaps not to the Folly of my Proceed-
 ‘ ings) I do not know how this may be re-
 ‘ ceived, nor can I well expect your Assistance,
 ‘ as I have been guilty of so much Impru-
 ‘ dence. Nevertheless I am in Hopes of finding
 ‘ some Compassion from you, though perhaps
 ‘ I may not deserve it. Then, dear Sir, if you
 ‘ can possibly pity a Man under the deepest
 ‘ Affliction, and who sincerely repents of his
 ‘ Folly; for G—’s Sake, shew it now, and
 ‘ intercede with ——— to forget what is past,
 ‘ and admit me once more to his Confidence.
 ‘ When I expressed myself so imprudently, I
 ‘ was somewhat in Liquor; but could not have
 ‘ believed any Person would have been so malicious
 ‘ as to take Advantage of me at such a Time, and
 ‘ in such a Manner. I have a Wife and Family,
 ‘ whose daily Prayers are for my safe and
 ‘ speedy Return, to whom this Affair must be
 ‘ inevitably known, if it continues as it is;
 ‘ which will greatly add to my Troubles;
 ‘ Therefore, for their Sakes, as well as mine, I
 E ‘ desire

‘ desire you’ll do your Endeavours to silence it,
 ‘ and reinstate me in the ———’s Favour.
 ‘ I am,

S I R,

Your most obedient

Madagascar,
 August 8,
 1748.

And respectful, humble Servant,

WILLIAM WILLS.’

Nothing in this World can vex a Person more, than, after he has humbled himself to make pitiful Submissions, to see himself trampled on the more, upon their Account; I had verliy believed the good Dr. would have bestirred himself for any Person living, who had acknowledged his Fault, with half the Sorrow and Concern I expressed: But I was mistaken. His Business was to preach and pray, and to shew People the Road to the other World; leaving it to themselves to scramble through this, as they can. I suppose, had I gone to him with a Case of Conscience, he would have had Interest enough to have settled the Affair presently: But was so dubious of his Influence with —, that really, upon serious Consideration, it was not worth risking a Dinner. But hold, here comes his Answer, a first-rate Favour, I assure you, considering from whose Hands it comes.

S I R,

S I R,

' I Am very much concerned, that I foresee
 ' so little Probability of succeeding in your
 ' Cause (I am very sorry for that) as there is
 ' no Argument I can possibly make use of in
 ' your Favour, but what may be retorted with
 ' equal, if not more Weight against you. (Say you
 ' so?) You must give me Leave to say (Go on
 ' pray) That there is no Excuse can be alledged
 ' on your Side. (That's hard.) The best one
 ' can do (There's a good Friend now) is to
 ' alarm the Humanity of ——— (Of which,
 ' to be sure, he has a vast deal) by painting the
 ' domestic Trouble it will occasion in your
 ' Family (Aye, that will do) as well as the
 ' public Stain that will, for some Time at least,
 ' lie on your Character. (Stronger still.) But
 ' will it not then be readily answered? (May
 ' be so) Have you not, without any Provoca-
 ' tion, injured a Lady's Reputation (There's
 ' the Devil) and raised a Distress in her Cha-
 ' racter, superior to any Thing that can befall
 ' yours? (To be sure.) The same Humanity
 ' (Again) that might induce ——— to for-
 ' give you, calls upon him to exert his Re-
 ' sentment against you (Alas!) in Favour of
 ' an innocent helpless Woman. (Poor Woman!)
 ' Upon the best Judgment that I can form at so
 ' short a Warning ('Tis Pity you had no
 ' longer Time) give me Leave to propose it
 ' to you as my Advice (Let's hear) That you
 ' would of yourself offer to make a Recanta-
 ' tion (Indeed!) of what you have said against
 ' Mrs. ———'s Honour upon the Quarter-
 ' Decks of the three Ships. (Very modest truly!)

' This appears to me to be the only Attone-
 ' ment you can make her; (So.) and will, no
 ' Doubt, when urged in your Favour to ———,
 ' satisfy, in some Measure, his Resentment, as
 ' it is only founded on the Injury (Nothing else!)
 ' you have done a Lady's Character. I should
 ' gladly serve you in this Affair (If not too
 ' much Trouble) and will do it, if you will
 ' put it in my Power. (By making myself a Vil-
 ' lain.) I am,

S I R,

Your most humble Servant,

S—L—K L—G—N.

The pretty Letter! If the Doctor had short
 Warning, he certainly took great Pains: Why, 'tis
 enough to furbish out a Piece of a Romance: —
 That you would offer to make a public Re-
 cantation upon the Quarter-Decks of the three
 Ships: — I wonder he did not rather prescribe
 the Sackcloth Gown, and then he might in Cha-
 racter have made one in the Procession, and ex-
 horted me to Penance in *Pontificalibus*: — This At-
 tonement will satisfy his Resentment—only found-
 ed upon the Injury you've done a Lady's Cha-
 racter: — Bless me! What a gallant Fellow this
 ——— must be? — How bravely he stands up
 for the Ladies? — Could Don *Quixote* himself,
 think ye, vie with him, in Prowess, to succour
 distressed Damsels?

To be sure this Letter gave me vast Comfort:
 The Doctor had not gone to ———, that
 would have been too much Trouble: Besides,
 the Man was really fat—Want of Exercise—an
 indulgent Wife—and then the Water: Oh! he
 never

never would trust Providence there, but when he could not help it: I hope the Doctor (who I understand is now in Town) will excuse my Freedom: A Man, reduced to Extremities by the Malice and Artifice of his Enemies, has no Measures to keep, but only to make the World his Friend, by the Sincerity and Impartiality of his Relations: So that, when I found nothing could be done that Way, I resolved to address Capt. P——, which I did much in the same Terms as to the Doctor; therefore need not repeat it, but will only transcribe the Captain's Answer.

Ship *Stretham*, Aug. 11, 1748.

S I R,

I Have received yours by the *Houghton's* Boat, and am very sorry that you have acted so imprudently as to occasion your Disgrace. You may be assured, that, if I can be of any Service in making Reconciliation between your ——— and you, I shall take a Pleasure in doing of it. I have indeed already mentioned to ———, That you are sensibly convinced of your Fault, and heartily sorry for it; and that you are ready to make any Acknowledgment to him on Mrs. ——— Account: But, at present he is so provoked at you, for the great Abuse the poor Woman has received, that he would hearken to nothing I could say to mitigate his Anger.

I believe he will expect a public Recantation of every Thing you have said (The Doctor again) to the Prejudice of her Character, which I think you ought to do, the sooner the better; after which, I hope your Behaviour will be such, as once more to gain
your

‘ your ——— Good-will : And, you may de-
 ‘ pend, that, whenever Opportunity offers for
 ‘ me to intercede for you, I will not neglect it.
 ‘ Mr. and Mrs. L——g——n have both promised
 ‘ me their Assistance ; and I heartily hope,
 ‘ that in Time we shall be able to persuade
 ‘ ——— to forgive every Thing that is past.
 ‘ I am,

S I R,

Yours, &c.

W. P——L.’

Upon comparing these two Letters, I was
 very certain, that Capt. P——l was at the
 Doctor’s Elbow, to dictate that Passage touch-
 ing the Recantation : For P——l and ———
 were very intimate Cronies ; and, I suppose, upon
 the Doctor’s Receipt of my Letter, P——l had
 advised him to make such an Answer, as he
 knew would be most agreeable to ——— :
 Which the Doctor, to do him Justice, might
 easily have been persuaded to do, in regard he
 was entirely a Stranger to the Affair : Other-
 wise, a Man of his Character and good Sense
 must have been the likeliest Person to have dis-
 suaded them from so unjustifiable and unprece-
 dented a Step, as he certainly must have known,
 that ———, nor no Captain whatsoever, had
 any Right to impose base Conditions on me,
 supposing even that their Allegations had been
 all true ; much less to deny me the Provisions
 and Conveniencies which the *East-India* Com-
 pany, his Masters as well as mine, allot to
 Persons of my Profession in their Service.

My

My last Resource then was Captain *Worth*, whom I always found to be a good-natured, sensible, honest Man. The Story of the Recantation aboard the three Ships astonished him prodigiously: But, says he, they dare not do it: — 'Tis impossible: — They must be in Joke. I answered, that it was such a Joke, as I believed would cost me my Life: For I was really apprehensive ——— would cause me to be murdered, which even would be a gentle Fate, in Comparison of being starved to Death: And that was very likely to happen, as soon as we were out at Sea, if he continued to refuse me my Share of Provisions, as I could not then have any Assistance out of the Ship, and could not expect that any Body there would help me, for Fear of ———'s Resentment, which might prove as fatal to them, as it was likely to do to me. I therefore desired, that, as we were to part Company in a few Days, he would carry me Home with him in his Ship: That he might make his own Terms, and I would from that Minute quit the Service. — Captain *Worth* made Answer, That he had petitioned both ——— and *P——l* in Writing (as is the Custom, when a Ship is in Distress) but the very Day before, to let him have one of their Surgeons, or Surgeons Mates, to take Care of his Ship's Company, but that both the one and the other had been refused: — That he could not be answerable to take me Home without ———'s Consent, which he knew could not be obtained; therefore it was in vain to think of it: That otherwise he would very joyfully accept of my Offer, both on my Account and his own; for that he foresaw the Inconveniencies of wanting a Surgeon,

the

the remaining Part of his Voyage. Afterwards he thanked me publickly for curing his Men, adding, that, had it not been for me, he would not have known how to carry his Ship Home. Then he gave me the Value of 37*l.* 16*s.* for my Trouble, *viz.* his Note of Hand for 27*l.* 6*s.* and Bill for 10*l.* 10*s.* drawn on *Thomas Hall, Esq;* the Ship's Husband, both which were paid, when they became due.

A few Days afterwards, Dr. *L——g——n* and Captain *P——t* came on Board the *Durrington*, while —— was out of the Way, but I suppose on Purpose, and by his Desire. They brought with them a kind of Certificate, and went into the great Cabbin, when Mr. *Harvey*, our first Mate, called me to them, and, after a Harangue from the Doctor, and a few Preliminaries from the Captain, they opened their Commission, and delivered their Certificate to me, which I read, and is as follows:

This is to certify to all the Ships Companies, That I *William Wills* have spoken a great many villainous Sayings to the Injury of Mrs. *S——*'s Character, and I know them to be erroneously false, and before you all I ask her Pardon, and am sorry for it.

I objected very strongly to the Expressions of this Certificate, which they expected I would have signed; but I told them, that, though I was willing to do any Thing in Reason for the Sake of Peace, and much obliged to them for Trouble they had taken to make a Reconciliation, I could never consent to so dishonourable a Thing, as to put my Hand-writing to a down-right

right Untruth; and by acknowledging, that I had spoken a great many villainous Sayings, own myself publickly a Villain, in the Face of the World. That the Certificate was by much too harshly expressed; and that, if they would mitigate it, I would likewise make Concessions on my Side; but that, as it stood, I neither would sign it, nor own it to be true, because I was not conscious of having scandalized, or caluminated, either the Character of Mrs. ———, or of any Person else. Then I proposed to word a Certificate, somewhat in the following Terms:

This is to certify to all whom it concerns,
That, if I *William Wills* have ever said any Thing disrespectful or injurious to the Reputation of Mrs. ——— in any Shape, to the best of my Knowledge and Remembrance, I never designed it as such; on the contrary, have a great Respect and Esteem for her, which I am ready to testify to the Persons who ever heard me say any Thing relating to her, or to any other Persons whatever, who will take the Trouble to ask me the Question *.

But this again in their Opinion was too mild, and was too inadequate a Reparation for the supposed Injuries she had received; so that, after a good deal of Talk, they went away, without being able to come to any Resolution.

F

What

* Mr. *Edward Gordon*, Purser (who is now in Town) will testify that he highly approved of my Refusal to sign any other Certificate.

What a Fuss was here about nothing at all ! Was it not strange that ———, and, by his Instigation, Dr. L——g——n and Captain P——/ should give themselves so much Trouble about the Reputation of a Woman, who was no way solicitous about it herself, nor seemed to think it was in the least Danger, from any Thing I would say ? On the contrary, who blamed and disapproved of ——— Proceedings on that Account. In Fact, the Method he took, under Pretence of befriending her, served only to make him be laughed at, and her the Joke of every Body who knew any thing of the matter. But now, that he had set out in a ridiculous Affair, his Pride, and the Air of Importance he assumed, would not suffer him to retreat till such Time as I had done him Honour before his People, by complying with his unreasonable Desires ; and disgraced myself by making Concessions unworthy of a Gentleman. But, as this was what I never intended to do, the Measures, he took, in Consequence of my Refusal, were such as must make him blush, unless he has a most consummate Assurance, only to see them plainly, and without Exaggeration, represented to the World.

On the 16th of *August* we were ready to set Sail, and I had gone aboard the *Houghton* to take my last Farewel of my Friends, who all, pitying my hard Condition, expressed a particular Concern at our Separation. There were three sick Men, who could not refrain from Tears, when they knew I was to come no more. By this Time, our Ship was under Sail, and ——— fired a Gun as a Signal to send me on Board, where I was left with a very heavy Heart, and the

the melancholy Prospect of the Hardships that were likely to ensue.

But, before this, Mrs. — had agreed with Captain —, and came aboard; so that now, as he was in peaceable Possession of the *Premises*, I expected he would have given Orders that I should have my full Allowance of Victuals and Drink, but I was greatly disappointed; for tho' the whole Ship's Company was served with fresh Beef for several Days together, after our Departure, and that they were divided unto five Persons in one Mess; yet he gave a particular Charge to the Officers, and to all the Men, to refuse to let me come into any of their Messes, with a Threat, that, if they did, he would cause them to be tied to the Sides of the Ship, and would whip and * pickle them between every four Strokes; by which Means, I neither could get a Morfel of Victuals nor a Drop of Water, without making Application to C—— S——, the Ship's Steward, who frequently, upon demanding my Allowance, would say to me, D—n your Blood; stay till the Ship's Company is served; and then would give me the very worst of the Meat, and that salt too, and no more than two Ounces for a whole Day, with about six or seven Spoonfuls of the Scrapings of Rice, that had been burnt to the Bottom of the Ship's Copper, which was so black, and so extremely bad, that it was impossible to eat it, unless one was at the very Point of Starving. My Allowance of Water was only three Pints in the twenty-four Hours, when the whole Ship's Company had free Access to the Water-Cask, whenever they would. They had also an Allowance of Brandy to mix with their

F 2

Water,

* That is, by rubbing Salt in the Wounds.

Water, but I was not allowed to have one single Drop.

The Officers and Mariners, seeing those extraordinary Hardships, frequently pitied me, and used to say, they would be very glad that the ———'s Passion and Cruelty would cease, for they were afraid I would be starved to Death; and they would have assisted me with Part of their own Allowance of Provisions, but they durst not, for Fear it might come to ———'s Ears, who had often sworn bitterly, that he would whip and pickle any Person whatever, who should give me the least Assistance.

But *Robert Street*, the Captain's Steward, who always attended his Table, and had the Care of his Provisions and Liquors, commiserating the extreme Hardships I underwent, would frequently secure me some Victuals; such as Bread and Meat in a Towel, which he used to convey to me, with the greatest Secrecy imaginable; and, whenever he did so, he would beg of me, for God's Sake, not to let it be known to any Person whatever; and this he continued to do, for about ten or twelve Days, when he told me, it was out of his Power to support me any longer in that Manner.

Then Mr. *William Tofts*, one of the Midshipmen, ventured to take me into his Mess, where I was very happy for about three or four Days, till ——— got Notice of it, and ordered Mr. *H——* to cause *Tofts* to turn me out of his Mess; which, in Compliance to the Captain's Desire, he was forced to do, much against his Will. Being thus drove to Distress, for the very Necessaries of Life, Mr. *Payne*, the Carpenter, would sometimes give me Part of his Allowance,
and

and sometimes I was obliged to beg Victuals of *Edward Gillis*, the Captain's Cook, and of *James Turner*, his Mate; and, at other Times, of *Edward Lucas*, the Ship's Cook; which they were accustomed to send me privately, by the Hands of *John Hobbs* (one of the Company's Soldiers, designed for *Bombay-Castle*) for Fear the ——— should hear of it. But, at last, all these Resources failed, and I was so hard put to it, that I was forced to go about the Main-deck, and beg Victuals of the private Sailors; otherwise, I must have perished thro' meer Want: For, when I asked C—— S——, the Ship's Steward, for my due Allowance of Provisions, he would cry out, in Presence and in the Hearing of several of the Ship's Company, D——n the Doctor, I won't give him any! d——n the Villain, let him go to the Captain's Mess again, if he dare.

On the 24th of *September*, the *Stretham's* Boat being along-side of our Ship, I writ to Mr. *William Foreman*, Captain P——'s first Mate, giving him an Account of my Sufferings, and desiring his Assistance; which I knew, as a Friend and an honest Man, he would do to the utmost of his Power. — But the Letter itself will best express the Condition I was in at that Time. The Copy of it is, as follows:

At Sea, *September 24, 1748.*

Dear Sir,

‘ M EETING with an Opportunity, I
 ‘ gladly embraced it, and hope you'll
 ‘ be so favourable, as to hear some Part of
 ‘ the unhappy Life I at present lead. I imagine
 ‘ you

‘ you are not unacquainted with my being turned
 ‘ out of the Captain’s Mess, and deprived of
 ‘ many other Conveniencies, Necessaries not
 ‘ excepted. As soon as we were under Sail, his
 ‘ Steward, R——S——, had received Orders not
 ‘ to give me one Morfel of Victuals, nor a
 ‘ Drop of Water, on Forfeiture of his Place,
 ‘ and Punishment to Boot. The People of the
 ‘ Steerage were likewise injoined not to receive
 ‘ me into any of their Messes. However, I
 ‘ would endeavour to bear up against these Afflic-
 ‘ tions, were they but all, and considering they
 ‘ are what I have not deserved. — But, Mr.
 ‘ Foreman, is it not cruel, for some of the under
 ‘ Officers (whether by Countenance of ——,
 ‘ or others, I can’t say) to make it their Busi-
 ‘ ness to use me ill, by scurrilous Language, and
 ‘ threatening to broom-stick me, &c. Really,
 ‘ if it should please God to put an End to my
 ‘ Days, I should think myself happy. I am in-
 ‘ formed, that I am not to go out of the Ship, du-
 ‘ ring the whole Voyage; and that my little
 ‘ Venture for myself and Family will not be
 ‘ suffered to go ashore, nor nothing for me per-
 ‘ mitted to come in. If you’ll be so kind, when
 ‘ you go ashore at *Bombay*, to assist me to sell
 ‘ my little Trifles, any Retaliation in my Power
 ‘ is at your Service. I have endeavoured to bring
 ‘ my Stomach to the Ship’s Provisions, amongst
 ‘ which is Rice; at the best, I don’t much like
 ‘ it, but, when ’tis sent to me, it is seraped from
 ‘ the Bottom of the Boiler, and full of Dirt; I
 ‘ can’t say I like it; it almost brings a Tear to
 ‘ my Eye, that I am forced to it, or none.—
 ‘ Be so kind, if it is in your Power, to send me
 some

‘ some Bread and a Bottle of Vinegar *. I am
‘ still willing to preserve Life, and see my little
‘ Family once more. I have nothing more to
‘ add, only I desire your Friendship towards me
‘ and hope in God you will effect a Deliver-
‘ ance from this unhappy State, as I never in
‘ my Life felt the like before.
‘ I am,

Dear Sir,

Your most obliged Friend,

WM. WILLS.

‘ P. S. Pray give my best Respects to
‘ Mr. and Mrs. *Lushington*, for their past
‘ Trouble on my Account.’

And, on the 28th, I received the following
Answer :

S I R,

‘ **I** Received yours, and am sorry I had not an
‘ Opportunity of answering it sooner, it
‘ not lying in my Power. This Day, happened
‘ an unlucky Accident in handing the Trifle you
‘ requested into the Boat : They let the Letter
‘ fall overboard, broke the Bottle, and lost all
‘ the Bread : However, I’ll stand another Trial,
‘ in Hopes it will come to Hand.—I am really
‘ sorry for the unhappy Situation you mention
‘ you are under at present ; but, as your Crime
‘ is in no Shape capital, I can’t see for what
‘ Cause you make yourself so uneasy ; for you

* This I used to disguise the spoiled Rice and stinking
Beef they gave me to eat.

may

' may depend upon it, in my Opinion, ———
 ' will consider and forget all past Failings, as
 ' soon as you arrive at *Bombay*. For there is
 ' none of us all, but do some foolish Things,
 ' and are sorry for it afterwards, though not
 ' so much taken Notice of. And, as for the
 ' Reflections of the under Officers, I would not
 ' regard them, but take it from whence it
 ' came. I dare say, none of the Gentlemen
 ' aboard would permit it in their Presence. As it
 ' does not lie in my Power to assist you farther
 ' in your Wants, I hope you will excuse me; I
 ' would readily do it, but you are certainly a
 ' Judge of the Consequence that would attend
 ' it. For your private Affairs, when you come
 ' to *Bombay*, you may depend upon it, that, if
 ' it is in my Power to be of any Service to you,
 ' you may lay your Commands. But, to be
 ' sure, the *Squall* will be over before that Time.
 ' I shall be glad to hear it, and the sooner the
 ' better. I believe our ——— and Mrs. ———
 ' will do all in their Power to moderate and
 ' soften the Affair. I heartily wish you a speedy
 ' Release out of your Confinement, and, like
 ' a true-born *Englishman*, all the Liberty you de-
 ' sire; and am,

S I R,

Ship *Stratham*,
 Friday After-
 noon, Sept. 28,
 1748.

your very humble Servant,

WM. FOREMAN.

' P. S. I hope all the Gentlemen are well
 ' aboard the *Durrington*, to whom my
 ' Compliments.'

The

The Bearer of this Letter was Mr. *Medcalf*, one of the Midshipmen of the *Stretham*; who likewise brought me from Mr. *Foreman* some Bread, a good Piece of Beef, a Bottle of Vinegar, and some other Things; which, as he was going to deliver to me, on the Main-Deck, I spoke to him softly, and desired him not to let the ——— see it, but to go down with me to my Cabbin, in the Gun-room, where he expressed great Surprize that I had been drove to such extreme Necessity; and, asking the Cause of it, I answered, That it was through ——— Cruelty; adding, that I was perishing, and that I believed he was determined to have my Life. To which Mr. *Medcalf* replied, shaking me kindly by the Hand, Dear Doctor, the ——— Spleen, about this Woman, will be all over, as soon as we have arrived at *Bombay*.

Though Mr. *Foreman*'s Supply lasted some Time, and I husbanded it as well as I could, and likewise had further Assistance from him, when Occasion offered of getting Things aboard our Ship: Yet I was often put to my Shifts to drag on a wretched Life, which was now almost become unsupportable; and was so necessitated for something to eat, that *John Brown*, Boatswain's first Mate, seeing my Distress, took me by the Arm, and asked me, if I would eat a little salt Beef with him? And took me to his Mess-mates, who were at Dinner, and where I made a very hearty Meal. One Mr. *John Fletcher*, a Midshipman, was very often kind to me; and *John Miller*, *James M'Auley*, *Michael Maud*, and *James Furber*, Seamen used, on several Occa-
G
sions,

sions, to help me privately, with a little Victuals.

On the 2d Day of *October*, *Richard Saxton*, one of our Quarter-masters, having caught a Dolphin, I ran with great Eagerness to buy it of him ; which he was going to let me have, when, unluckily for me, ———, who was looking over the Balustrade into the Main-deck, saw me bargaining for it ; upon which he immediately sent *Robert Street*, his Steward, to Mr. *Paxton*, to demand the Fish for his own Use ; which when Mr. *Saxton* had delivered, he turned himself to me, saying, Don't mind it, Doctor ; you see I can't help it ; if I can catch another, you shall be sure to have it. So there was no Remedy, I was forced to submit.

The whole Ship's Company (excepting those who were blindly devoted to the ———) made no scruple of reproaching him privately for this unparalleled Barbarity ; while he, honest Man, never discovered the least Symptom that he would relent. On the contrary, he was frolicking away the Time with Mrs. ———, and kept me in Misery, on Purpose, I suppose, to give the keener Edge to his own Lasciviousness. If I had been in a Humour to be merry, I might have diverted myself sufficiently, at their Expence, every Day ; for there seldom one past, but produced one ridiculous Story or another relating to them. And as naturally I am not of a jealous Temper, nor indeed, for several Reasons, had the least Tendency to it, on this Account ; I could have enjoyed it in its full Force, without doing great Violence to my Inclinations. But the rest of the People laughed sufficiently, both for me and themselves, and began to play over the
the

the same Tricks that had so often perplexed me, when on Board the *Houghton*.—So that, from the Beginning to the End, that Lady has been very unfortunate in her Amours.

The Ship's Company became daily more and more my Friends, as the ——— Behaviour appeared extravagant and ridiculous to them; because it both served to clear the Prejudices they had taken against me, and, at the same Time, let them into the Secret of all his Proceedings; which, as they are now generally known, and that, under a false Pretence, my Character has not only been traduced, but my domestic Tranquillity with my Wife (was she not a good-natured Woman) eminently risked, 'tis but reasonable I should repay these Obligations in Kind, and that is now in my Power to do. Therefore I put the following Anecdote on Record, hoping, that, one Day or another, it may have the good Fortune to fall into the Hands of Mrs. ———.

You must know then, that ——— and Mrs. ——— (who lived as Mrs. ———) took a Fancy to bathe themselves together in Sea Water: — They had the Conveniency of a large Bathing Tub, placed in a slight Shed, which was erected near the Round-house, on the Quarter-deck, for that Purpose. Now, observe, there were several Chinks, occasioned by the Heat of the Weather, which unfortunately they had overlooked; through which Chinks, I can produce several Witnesses to the Colour of a certain Mole, of which, as he is undoubtedly the best Judge, I appeal to his personal Knowledge for the Truth.

So much for what was seen : Not a Person in the Ship, but what heard enough. In one Word, their Behaviour was most shockingly indecent, and the Sailors, who watched all their Motions, used to cry out, at Bathing-time, *There they go, now we shall hear her squeak.*

In this Manner did — and his Mistress expose themselves, before all the People on Board. The Officers laughed in their Sleeves, but the Sailors (a Set of People who know no Reserve) passed their Jokes upon it most immoderately. For my own Part, I was amazed at it beyond Expression! 'Tis true, I have been often guilty of many Errors, myself, yet never in my Life was impudently wicked. And I believe it is happy for me, that these have generally been attended with such signal Chastisements, such Shame and Remorse, as would have reclaimed a much more obdurate Person than ever I was. This, I with Justice, ought to ascribe to that divine Providence, which conducts every Thing for the best, and to which I most humbly stand indebted for my wonderful Preservation through all the Miseries and Hardships I have undergone ; and, which has made me sensible that Afflictions are very necessary to bring one to a proper Knowledge of one's self ; at least, they have produced such Reflections in me, as I shall never lose the Remembrance of.

I, in Justice, own, that — has been one Instrument of my Reformation, though I am very little obliged to him for his Intentions at the Time, and I am very willing to repay him that friendly Office ; the more so, as he stands as much, if not more, in need

need of it than myself; because, as I am informed, he still visits Mrs. ——. Therefore, if I can throw him into a gentle *Sweat* (which must be, I think, if he reads the foregoing Pages) 'tis to be hoped he will, in due Time, perspire all the Choler and Libertinism of his Constitution, and be restored an useful Man to his Country and his Family.

As I have made Professions of Sincerity and Truth in this Narration, I am determined to keep up to the Spirit of it throughout. Besides, as Mrs. —, by the Imprudence and Levity of her Conduct, has deservedly ruined herself in my Esteem, I do not think she has a Right to be treated with very great Decorum. Not to mention her Ingratitude, and her Falshood in promising to mitigate Matters between the — and me, and yet scarcely letting me hear from her once, during all my Troubles. Troubles, which were occasioned, purely on her Account, and which was it in her Power either to have extricated me from, or, at least, to have rendered more supportable. But she is a Woman who can easily forget old Acquaintances, when new ones are on the Carpet; and I believe loves the Sex so indifferently, that (except some *personal* Considerations) nothing else comes under her Attention. Yet, notwithstanding all that I have said, I should be against publishing our Correspondence, if it had not already been sufficiently exposed at *Guild-hall*, on *July* last, whether I would or not, in common Course of Law; besides, as it will serve to remove the scandalous Imputation I lay under of having defamed her Reputation, when aboard the *Houghton*, which, in Fact, proceeded from the Folly and Imprudence
so

so essential to her own Character, I have a Right to do myself Justice. But, as all the Letters that passed between us, would take up too much Room, out of perhaps half a Score I may have, I shall, at present, only transcribe two; and, that she may not blush to go foremost, I shall first shew her the Way with one of my own,——since it must be so.

Only I must observe, that, as neither she nor I could foresee, when these Letters were wrote, that ever they would appear in Print, 'tis hoped the Reader will make great Allowances for the Expression and Stile, which cannot be expected to be so fine and studied, as what we meet with in Novels. Therefore I give them just as they are, excepting some Corrections in the Orthography; which is not often neither, because she really can spell extraordinary well. But I have been advised to leave several Passages intirely out, till I should see how the rest were received, which, if they are approved of, and my Book sells well, I will certainly insert in the next Edition.

My Dearest Creature,

‘ **Y**OU’LL receive this by the Hands of
 ‘ Mr. *George Male*. You must know, that
 ‘ Mr *Rosewell*, *May*, *Bradley*, and *Gordon* were
 ‘ with me till late last Night, and drinking mer-
 ‘ rily of my Cape Wine; our Officers began to
 ‘ joke them about you, and asked them the
 ‘ Reason, that they are all so unsuccessful in
 ‘ your Inclinations, as not to get a young
 ‘ Mate in Place of a young Doctor; upon
 ‘ which, Words rose to such a Pitch, and the
 ‘ Wine

' Wine getting into their Heads, they desired
 ' our Gentlemen to keep me aboard my own
 ' Ship, for that they thought I was a very
 ' dangerous Man. Mr. May took Notice, that
 ' ——— had a Mind for you himself; therefore,
 ' stand clear, Dr. says he, for if you do not,
 ' he will put it down as one more of the
 ' Articles of War*; adding, no Man ought
 ' to spoil what he cannot make.

' But, my dear Soul, I must forbear visit-
 ' ing you so often; I believe you will like it
 ' much better, and, I dare say, it will be more
 ' to your Satisfaction, at the Time wished for.
 ' One Thing more I have to say, by way of
 ' Caution; and, by what I hear of their Dis-
 ' course, what I am much afraid you and I for-
 ' got (the Blinds of the Windows) I wish there
 ' was a triple Tax on Ship-Lights.—But, above
 ' all, let me intreat you to stifle this spreading
 ' Report; the Consequence may be bad to us
 ' both, for I am really afraid my ——— is as
 ' much in Love as myself; and your Advice,
 ' how to act, at this Juncture, will recal to his
 ' wished for Pleasure,

Yours ever, &c.

Durrington,
 July 26, 1748.

WM. WILLS.

* This Sneer, I suppose, being reported, was one Pro-
 vocation, amongst others, for getting that poor Gentleman
 turned out of the East India Company's Service.

P. S.

‘ P. S. When your Boat put off last Night,
 ‘ I made all the Gentlemen brave and
 ‘ merry, and, by what I can find, they
 ‘ are all in Love.——Receive a Present
 ‘ of my Cape Wine, and a few Toys
 ‘ for Miss to play with——excuse the
 ‘ long Letter —— I never tire to
 ‘ you.

I cannot positively say, that this is quite an exact Copy, for the Reasons hereafter mentioned. But if ———, who has the Original, will compare them together, he will find very little Difference, either in the Thought or Expression: At least, he may, whenever he pleases, publish a true Copy to set me right.

Here comes the Answer:

My Dear Doctor,

‘ **Y**OUR dear Letter I received by Mr.
 ‘ *Male*, and I am a little suspicious the
 ‘ Seal was broke open; but, whether so or no, I
 ‘ cannot certainly say; but, be it as it will, let us
 ‘ be cautious for the future, as our Enjoyment
 ‘ of each other is so short: But you may assure
 ‘ yourself, as to Reflections any of the Offi-
 ‘ cers may say of us, do you bear it off with a
 ‘ good Countenance; you may assure yourself
 ‘ I’ll act my Part as well as any of my Sex of
 ‘ this Side the *Cape of Good Hope*.——O, my
 ‘ dear Doctor, mind not what they say, for they
 ‘ only envy our happy M——ts, and wish
 ‘ themselves in our Place.—But you must know
 ‘ ——— has really been here (a Courting, you
 ‘ may be sure.) He came into my Cabbin, sat
 on

‘ on my Bed, and told me (but first a Kiss, and
 ‘ next a Buss) I must go with him back to
 ‘ *India*, and so for *England*; for I would be safer
 ‘ in a firm Ship, and Capt. *Worth*’s is distressed,
 ‘ and has sick People. I replied, I was not the
 ‘ happiest of Women, for that Capt. *Worth*’s
 ‘ Officers passed their Skits, and I had no Mo-
 ‘ ney, but what Bills I had on a *Jew* in *Lom-*
 ‘ *bard-street*, and it would be expensive to pay
 ‘ twice. Nothing would do (another Salute to
 ‘ be sure) I should be welcome to any Part of
 ‘ the Ship, and, without any Expence (and,
 ‘ to be sure, while Women are scarce) and the
 ‘ World will say, if I do go abroad, I am mad.

‘ I had liked to forget one principal Point :
 ‘ You must know, he and Capt. *P——* began,
 ‘ after Dinner, to joke Capt. *Worth*, that he was
 ‘ good for nothing (you know what I mean.)
 ‘ But our old Man, turning the Discourse on
 ‘ ———, said he was obliged to the Doctor that
 ‘ he recommended :—I cannot say but it made
 ‘ me blush, though I wished to be in a Corner,
 ‘ you know where, that we might have had a
 ‘ hearty Laugh.—However, they began again,
 ‘ and said, Madam, be careful of your good
 ‘ Character, for the Doctor is a dangerous Man
 ‘ with the Women : He has a Wife in *England*,
 ‘ and she’s always a breeding by him : after which
 ‘ I was pleased, my Jewel, to hear their Dis-
 ‘ course, though I left their Company instantly,
 ‘ and went to my Cabbin.—My Dear, do see
 ‘ me To-day, for every Body tells me of a young
 ‘ Doctor : They will be soon tired of this ; for
 ‘ I am determined that my Leg shall not
 ‘ be cured, while our Meetings last. ———
 ‘ I send this by one of Capt. *Worth*’s Boat’s
 H Crew,

‘ Crew, whom I can depend upon : You do the
 ‘ same, and it will be all safe and well.

Strettham, Forenoon.

Yours, &c.

I cannot positively say that this is quite an exact Copy, for the Reasons hereafter mention'd. But if Capt. ———, who has the Original, will compare them together, he will find very little Difference either in the Thought or Expression ; at least, if I am wrong, he may, whenever he pleases, publish a true Copy, and set me right.

I must beg Mr. *Male's* Pardon, however, for making Mention of his Name on this Occasion ; tho' I don't believe he will be offended at it ; since he neither knew the Subject nor Contents of the Letter, but only accepted of a friendly Office, which I should not scruple to perform for any Gentleman I had a Value for, without farther Enquiry. That the Seal had been broken open was purely Suspicion, and was, perhaps, owing to a careless Way of sealing it, or to its being rumpled before Delivery. I know that Gentleman so well, that I am glad of this Opportunity to testify my Respect, being sensible that he is equally incapable of acting but as a Man of Honour, as of a childish Curiosity.—— Indeed, I must pardon the Lady, in one Sense, for yielding to ———'s Importunities ; for the Want of Money, I know, is a very great Want. But then, if she wanted Cash, to my Knowledge, she had Bills to the Value of 350 *l.* partly drawn on Mr. *Amy*, a *Jew*, in *Lombard-street* ; so here she fails again ; for I am sure Capt. *Worth* never refused to give her Credit to *England*, where she could receive her Money.——But, when a
 Woman

Woman lays herself under pecuniary Obligations to an artful, designing Man; 'tis ten to one if she is able to resist all his Importunities and Solicitations. I should heartily pity a virtuous Woman, reduced by pure Necessity, and against her Will, to such a Situation.——But this was not her Case, for it was quite a voluntary Act, and without any Kind of Necessity. And——, who loved to lay out his Money to Advantage, took special Care to have personal Security and Satisfaction for the Interest.

My Dear Creature,

NO sooner I left your Ship to go on Board my own, than several of my Friends gave me privately to understand that—— had openly avowed his Resentment against me, and had declared that he would use me ill, on account of the mutual Love we have for each other; and they blamed me much for not whipping the Child for telling of Tales;——for now all is out.——I am cursedly vexed such an unforeseen Accident should so happen, that the Gallery-Door had not been better look'd to, as well as the former Misconduct of the Cabbin Blinds; for I can gather, from their Conversation, that 'tis no News to them; and your People have reported every Tittle of what little *Betty* said. I am, my dear Soul, very much afraid what the Consequence of this will be; for, as you are out of his Power, it must all fall upon me; so that I can expect nothing but worse and worse Treatment from him; for I believe he is almost distracted till he gets into a better Climate (you know what I mean) and I must be forced to desist, or suf-

' fer for his jealous Pate, if some Method is
 ' not thought of very soon. I understand the
 ' Captains are going aboard your Ship to sift
 ' into the Affair; and, if they say any Thing to
 ' you, don't, my dear Angel, want Courage to
 ' talk to these Sea-Monsters, for I really believe
 ' they only would *all* be Surgeons to cure Legs;
 ' though I don't doubt but you will find Ex-
 ' cuses enough to come handsomely off.—Pray
 ' mind and do your best: — But, my dear——,
 ' don't let them fright you so, as to hazard
 ' what I desire you'll take the most particular
 ' Care of. — Your Answer soon, with all the
 ' News of the Day, — for I shall be in the ut-
 ' most Impatience 'till I hear from you. I am,

Ship Durrington,
 Aug. 2, in the
 Forenoon.

My dearest, ever Yours,

WILLIAM WILLS.'

' P. S. Do, mind your Eye: — For I believe
 ' they will be with be with you presently.'

The A N S W E R,

My dear Doctor,

' **I** Think Misfortunes seldom come single, for
 ' I pass my Time but very indifferently: —
 ' But Fretting don't signify, we must only guard
 ' against them for the future. — Our People
 ' begin to use me ill, with such Language as I
 ' never before received in my Life; — as if I
 ' was to blame for my Child's Foolishness. — I
 ' assure you she will do so no more; — so you
 ' may be quite easy there. — At Dinner Words
 ' arose to such a Height, that they threw down
 ' their

' their Plates on the Floor, and, in Return I
 ' threw the Fowl-soup at them. — I believe
 ' Mr. R—— wants your Assistance: — I am
 ' heartily pleased I hit the Mark. — Just after
 ' the Captains came on Board,—and began to
 ' make Inquiry into the Cause of the Rumour:—
 ' First they called my Child: Had she always
 ' been so good, it would have been well. They
 ' wanted to know if my Leg was well, and
 ' many other foolish Questions. — Then
 ' ——— wanted to talk with me in my Cab-
 ' bin, and endeavoured to set me against you;
 ' advised me to leave this Ship, and be more
 ' happy, he said, aboard his; and that I should
 ' neither want for Money,—and many other
 ' pretty Inticements. — He said would have the
 ' Child say the same Words again:—But now
 ' she knows better; and, when you come on
 ' Board To-morrow Morning, I have a long
 ' Story to tell you of your ——— private Ad-
 ' vice and Insinuations. — I don't know
 ' well what to do, but hope I have come off
 ' pretty well: — So pray come To-morrow
 ' Morning as usual, as soon as Light, when they
 ' are washing their Decks, when I will receive
 ' you with open Arms. My dear Jewel,
 ' you may assure yourself how much I have
 ' you always at Heart, that I could only wish
 ' our whole Lives would last out our happy
 ' Pleasures, and that our envious Parties were
 ' insensible of all human Enjoyments. — Yours
 ' to command—The oftener the better,

Houghton, Seven o'Clock
 at Night.

Who could imagine that such passionate Af-
 surances would have been so very soon forgot?
 This

This Squabble, she takes Notice of, was not the only one that happened : For, as they knew her Intention of going aboard ——— Ship, it appeared so extravagant to them, that they could not help reproaching her with it in the strongest Terms. But as their Remonstrances concerning the Imputation she would lie under with her Friends in the *Indies*, whom they all knew, and the Harm her Reputation would suffer in *England*, served only to provoke ; they were always a bickering together till she left the Ship : And, as she is a Woman of a hasty impetuous Temper, it was in one of these Sallies she affronted the Company, by throwing about the Soup, which spoiled Mr. R—— a Pair of Breeches, and bespattered the rest. That Gentleman (who is C—— ——— Nephew) and Mr. ——— as I before said, were only Passengers ; and, having made their Fortune in *India*, were returning Home to settle in *England*. I believe they are now both in Town ; and as they are Men of Character and Credit, and besides have been my Patients, I don't doubt but they will vouch some Part of the ill Usage I received from ———, before we parted Company with their Ship : — Mr. G—— I know will vouch the same : He was Purser of the *Houghton*, and, besides what he gained in Trade, has an independent Fortune at Home. I own myself very much indebted to him, for the Favour of dining frequently in his Cabbin, after ——— excluded me out of his ; and shall always think it my Duty to acknowledge the Generosity of my Friends, with the same Candour and Sincerity as I relate the Hardships and Cruelties inflicted on me by my Enemies.

Hither-

Hitherto ——— had never pretended any other Cause of mal-treating me, than the supposed Damage I had done to Mrs. ———'s Reputation; but as we were now near *Bombay*, where he knew I would get intirely out of his Clutches, he began to be both ashamed and afraid of the Consequences; therefore he was continually watching for a more specious Pretext to harrafs me still more, and to justify his past Proceedings. For this End he had his Spies constantly about me, in the Hopes that, starved and distressed as I was, they might pick some Expressions out of me, that might be construed as Mutiny, in which Case he had determined to drop his first Pretence, and have me tried on the Articles of War by a Court-Martial. But, this not happening as he expected, he then waited to see if Strefs of Hunger and Self-preservation would force me to steal Victuals for Subsistence; by which last Bait I was unluckily caught in the following Manner:

On the 7th of *October* as I was looking about for a Bit of Victuals (the ——— having that very Morning damned me, and refused me my Allowance of Flour) I espied on the Main-deck a hind Quarter of a Goat, and to it hanging a small Kidney; and, looking round to see if the Coast was clear, I immediately took my Knife and cut out the Kidney, not thinking that ever it would be missed. Then I went to the Cook's Fire, and desired him to lend me the Gridiron to broil it; which he did, saying to me, I am afraid you have been seen in cutting it out. I told him, with the greatest Grief imaginable, that, if it was so, Hunger was so pressing upon me, that I could not help it. When it was
broiled,

broiled, I eat it before him without Bread, Rice, or Salt: Upon which he said, ' Sure, Doctor, ' you are starving, indeed, to eat it in that Manner.'

Next Day, in the Morning betimes, there was a great Noise about the Ship, to know who had stole the Kidney; and, the ——— having been told, that it was me, he determined to find it out. That Day happened to be Pudding-day for the whole Ship's Company, and their Puddings were then boiling in the Ship's Copper: Upon which, the ——— imagining that I had put it into mine for Secrecy to boil, he, like a lusty Fellow, ordered two Centries over the Kettle; and, when the Puddings were taken out to be served to the People, gave Orders a second Time to his first, second, third, fourth, and fifth Mates, to stand by the Cook with Knives in their Hands, and cut every Man's Pudding in two, in order to find out the Kidney which I had eat the Day before. When they were all served so, the Mates called out, Where is the Doctor's Pudding? I made Answer directly in the Hearing of most of the People, that I had none; for that the ———, as he used to do, had refused me my Allowance of Flour. Now all this Day I had nothing in the World to eat but a little Bread that Mr. *Foreman* of the *Stret-bam* had been so kind to send me the Day before; and, knowing their ill Intentions against me, I thought myself happy I had that, and a little Wine of my own mixed with it was a great Support.

After Dinner it was again reported to the ——— that I had taken the Kidney, and somebody affirmed, that I had threatened to throw the

the Hind-Quarter over-board: Upon which, about Three o'Clock in the Afternoon, as I was sitting on the Main-deck, *John Harvey* the first Mate, *George Barnes* the second Mate, with *John Alexander* a Midshipman, having a naked broad Sword in his Hand, told me, I must go their Prisoner to the Gun-room by the ——— Orders; where Mr. *Harvey* read a Paper, which they said were the Depositions of four of the Ship's Company, who had made Oath, that I had stole the Goat's Kidney, and threatened to throw the Hind-Quarter overboard; for which Crimes they told me the ——— had ordered them to confine me Prisoner, 'till I should be tried by a Court-Martial at *Bombay*. I asked them for a Copy of those Depositions; but they refused me, because the ——— had ordered them to the Contrary. — Then they told me, that the ——— had appointed a Soldier, one *Henry Bagling*, to bring me such Victuals and Water as I was to have, during my Confinement; for that, now I was Prisoner, I must not expect the same Allowance as the Foremast-Men: And that he had given Orders to all the Ship's Company and to the Centries, not to permit one Morsel more to be given to me, at the Peril of being worse treated than myself.

The Names of the Centries, during my Imprisonment, were *John Fletcher*, *Isaac Shank*, *John Alexander*, *William Tost*, *William Braund*, *Anthony Lucas*, and *John White*. They used to relieve each other every Hour in the Day-time, and every two Hours in the Night, on Account of the excessive Heat of the Weather, and a Gun-room close and confined from Air. Many Times they used to say to me, ' Doctor, this

I

' exces-

‘excessive Heat will certainly kill you, before
 ‘ever you see *Bombay*.’ And many hundred
 Times did I think I should, what with Hunger
 and the Closeness of the Place, and what with
 the unsufferable Heat that generally rages be-
 tween the Tropicks at that Season.

On the second Day of my Imprisonment,
Henry Bagling the Soldier came and told me,
 That the ——— had been ordered, by his Ma-
 ster, to give me nothing but a little salt Beef
 and Rice, during all my Confinement: Upon
 which, I determined to write to the ——— my-
 self in the most submissive and respectful Terms,
 hoping thereby to soften him still more, and
 to obtain the Permission of being one Hour a
 Day upon Deck for the Benefit of the open
 Air. The Copy of the Letter is as follows:

S I R,

‘**I** Beg the Favour of you, that I may be in-
 ‘dulged to be on the Main-deck as former-
 ‘ly, and to perform the Duties of my Station.
 ‘I promise to speak to no-body but such as
 ‘you approve of, and to do every Thing else
 ‘in my Power to oblige you, in Hopes to re-
 ‘cover a small Spark of your Esteem. Really,
 ‘Sir, the Gun-room is so intolerably hot in the
 ‘Night-time, as well as in the Day, that I am
 ‘afraid it will be my Death. I am sorry for
 ‘all Faults laid to my Charge, and humbly ask
 ‘your Pardon. Pray be so good to consider
 ‘the Hardships I undergo, and let not this my
 ‘last

‘ last Voyage be the Ruin of me and mine.
‘ I am,

S I R,

OCT. 8, 1748. *Your most obedient humble Servant,*

WILLIAM WILLS.’

But all the Answer I could draw from him was, That By G—d I should have no Favour from him.

My Centries (who were all Midshipmen) pitied me extremely, and used, when they relieved one another, to bring me in their Pockets some of their Allowance of Victuals, which was either a Slice of their fresh Beef, a Piece of Pudding, or some Callivancoes; without which Help, I must and would have starved and perished for Want.

Yet all these Sufferings were too gentle for the ———’s sanguinary Views. He had already threatened me with a Court-Martial; but, in my Conscience, I believe he was ashamed to indict me only for the Theft of a Goat’s Kidney: Therefore he had all his Emissaries at work to tamper with the Men, in order to trump up some new Misdemeanour. He found one perfectly fit for his Purpose, or indeed for the most infernal Purpose that the Malice of Mankind could suggest: This was one ———, a Seaman, a Fellow of a most infamous Character, who was even shunned and detested by the greatest Reprobates aboard the Ship. This Fellow, being properly tutored (which was no hard Matter) and wrought upon for the Purpose, went to the ———, and made Oath that

I had said, ' If the People were all of my Mind,
 ' I would tie up ———, and whip him instead
 ' of this Fellow ——— ' who happened to be
 punished, as he oftentimes was, for his Wicked-
 ness aboard the Ship *; which I solemnly de-
 clare, before God and the World, was untrue,
 malicious, and false. But when I saw that Inno-
 cence availed nothing, in the Situation I was in,
 and that their Malice would have no Bounds, I
 thought it proper to address ——— once more,
 believing, that, unless he was divested of every
 Sentiment of Justice and Humanity, he would
 reflect seriously on the Cruelty and Barbarity of
 his Proceedings. I was under such Agony and
 Torture of Mind, that I was hardly capable of
 knowing what I writ. I here give a faithful
 Copy of it, though I am in Doubt if it will be
 well understood:

S. I R,

' **I** Beg you'll be so kind to leniate some of
 ' my Punishments: I am really as sorry, as
 ' any unhappy Man can be in this World, for
 ' any unguarded Words or Sayings that are al-
 ' leged against me. I am very sensible I swore
 ' many unthinking Oaths: I was almost dis-
 ' tracted to think I was come to want a Bit of
 ' Bread. I tried many People, especially the
 ' Cooks, to get somewhat to eat; I found it was
 ' all in vain, because you had a Dislike to me.
 ' They were afraid to do me any Service of any
 ' Kind whatsoever: Pray consider, those com-
 ' mon People I begg'd of in my Distress were
 ' glad to be my Enemies in this my unfortunate
 ' Life.

* I have three Depositions, to prove that this Villain per-
 jured himself.

' Life. As for any Man being concerned with
 ' me, to the Prejudice of you, or even the Ship,
 ' I declare they are all innocent as well as my-
 ' self. When at *Spithead*, little could I think
 ' these my Afflictions would fall on me in such
 ' a Manner, which will be, I believe, my Ruin,
 ' and likewise my Wife and Son's. I must con-
 ' fess it was my own Inclination, and good O-
 ' pinion of you, that you would be always my
 ' Friend. My Father told me, begg'd of me,
 ' in two Letters, to make of his Interest in the
 ' Navy, and leave your Ship, as is was deter-
 ' mined I should go three Years more to Sea,
 ' I told Mr. *Barnes* and Mr. *Riddal*, that I in-
 ' tended to speak to you of it; but I thought,
 ' a second Time, that I could not be happier in
 ' a Friend than you, had I obliged you. I am
 ' sensible I have not: Pray don't keep your An-
 ' ger to this Height; mitigate it for me, this
 ' once, for God's Sake. I ask your Pardon for
 ' whatsoever I have done to you. A Reforma-
 ' tion you shall daily see in me, only permit me
 ' a small Share of better Usage. I have no-
 ' thing but salt Meat to eat, and little of that:
 ' My tender Stomach will not bear it, it is so
 ' reduced to Weakness. The Steward has stopt
 ' my little Flour, by Orders, he tells me, from
 ' you; if so, have a little Mercy, for God's
 ' Sake; and I'll endeavour, ever after, to serve
 ' you with all Care in Life; from,

S I R,

Your humble Servant,

October 15, 1748.

WILLIAM WILLS.

In

In Answer to this, he sent Word by Mr. ——— and ———, that he would shew me no Mercy, notwithstanding the deplorable Condition into which I was reduced.

Next Day there was an Ox killed aboard (of which we brought ten or twelve alive from *Madagascar*.) The Captain gave Orders to the Steward and the Cook not to give me one Bit of it, nor the Centry to permit any to come in to me, at their Perils. The Law, he said, did not allow of it to Prisoners; upon which the Steward did with me as he pleased; some Days he gave me Rice and salt Beef, and at other Times would deny me even that.

In the Night-time, as the Ship's People were talking, I used to hear them say, "The ——— certainly has a Mind to kill the Doctor, e're he gets to *Bombay*." The ———'s own Relation came twice to the Door, and gave me Victuals, by Permission of the Centry; and Mr. *R——l*, our third Mate, assisted me several Times, particularly gave me once a Pound of Biscuit, and a Pound of Cheese, which was a great Relief.

On the 18th of *October* I remember I was so extremely faint, that, having Occasion to ease myself, I was obliged to be led by *John Fletcher*, who, with all his Strength, had much ado to hold me up. That very Day I had tasted nothing in the World till about Six o'Clock in the Evening, when Mr. *Saxton* offered me, at the Door, a Plate of Fish, which he was eating; and of which I had scarce one Mouthful, when *Anthony Lucas* said to him, 'I must and will obey the ———'s Orders, to let no Victuals go to him, but what he appoints himself.' Then
Mr.

Mr. *Saxton* shook his Head, and went away, without daring to speak one Word in my Behalf.

I am unwilling to dwell any longer on such a melancholy Narration. If I was to give a minute Detail of all my Sufferings, I might swell out a very large Volume:—But I hope I have produced sufficient Instances, that I was most unmercifully used.

When the ——— perceived that he could not starve me outright, so long as I had Friends aboard, he set to Work to beggar me if he could. I have already taken Notice that the Ship's Company had been much infected with the Venereal Distemper; and it is the Custom in this Service, as well as in the Navy, for the Patients themselves to pay for their own Cure, the Public making no Allowance in such Cases; and, as I had cured a great many, such as had no Money gave me their Notes of Hand for Security. This the ——— well knew, and had, underhanded, influenced the Men to deny that they had been my Patients, or that they were cured; particularly, he sent ——— to me, to demand a Note of Hand I had of one ———, Seaman, for 2 *l.* 2 *s.* which, to gratify ———, I delivered up. When he had got this, he caused me to be told, that I should never receive a Farthing for the N—s I had of the other People for such Cures, but that he would have them assigned over to my Mate, upon assuring the Persons concerned that I should never appear against them on that Account; which was accordingly done, as I was told by my Centry, at the Time, and in the Hearing of R—— S—— and J—— M——, Quarter-masters.

The

The same G— B— came to me, a second Time, with Orders that I should pay the Charge of my Servant G— Y—'s Account: I told him that it was false, and would not pay it.— No Matter, says he, d—n you, pay it directly, by Orders of ——. I told him I could not then come at my Money; upon which he left me, for that Time, but I was obliged to pay it afterwards.

Just upon the Back of this, Mr. Harvey, first Mate, sent me Word that a Pipe of *Madeira* Wine, belonging to me, leaked out in the Hold, excepting three or four Gallons; and desired, by the same Messenger, to know what should be done with the Remainder. The Truth is, it was drank out, I won't say by whom, nor by whose Connivance. I suspected so at first, but was credibly informed of it afterwards at *Bamboy* by Capt. *Wm. Lane*, who had it from a Person who was present at the Fact; which, at his Desire, I minuted down in his Presence.

Here I'll stop a few Minutes, to give you a little more of Mrs. ——. I had found Means to convey her a Letter, in Hopes she would have interceded for me: For, though I knew she was the most improper Person in the World to speak to — in my Favour, yet I imagined, when she was properly acquainted with the Distress I was in, that she might contrive some Method to help me, without either alarming his Jealousy, or even appearing to interest herself in my Behalf.

END of the First Part.

